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The Truth Speaks

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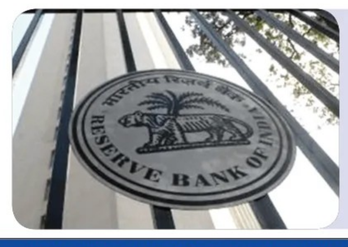

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MEA rejects Lutnick's claim, says 8 calls between Modi and Trump

India on Friday rejected US claims linking stalled trade talks to Modi–Trump calls, while monitoring a proposed American bill on Russian oil tariffs

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday dismissed claims by US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick that a proposed India–US trade deal failed because Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not call US President Donald Trump. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the "characterisation of discussions in reported remarks is not accurate," stressing that Modi and Trump had spoken by phone eight times in 2025.

Responding to Lutnick's comments, Jaiswal said India and the United States had been close to concluding a trade agreement on several occasions and that New Delhi continues to remain interested in a mutually beneficial deal. Lutnick had earlier suggested that India missed a narrow window to finalise the pact, claiming a direct leader-level call was required and did not take place.

The MEA also said it is closely monitoring developments related to a proposed US bipartisan bill that seeks to impose up to 500% tariffs and secondary sanctions on countries importing Russian energy. The legislation, titled the Sanctioning Russia Act of 2025, has been backed by Republican Senator Lindsey Graham and Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal, and reportedly has the support of President Trump. India is currently the world's second-largest buyer of Russian crude after China.

> **PM Modi and President Trump have spoken on phone on eight occasions in 2025.**
>
> —Randhir Jaiswal, MEA spokesperson

On the issue of energy imports, Jaiswal said India's procurement decisions are guided by global market conditions and the need to ensure affordable energy for its 1.4 billion people. He emphasised that energy security remains a key national priority. The proposed sanctions, if enforced, could further strain India–US relations, which have seen both cooperation and friction in 2025 amid trade disputes, geopolitical pressures and differing policy priorities, even as engagement continues across strategic and economic sectors.

CM writes to Vijayan, raises concern over Malayalam Language Bill

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has written to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan expressing serious concern over the proposed Malayalam Language Bill, which seeks to make Malayalam the compulsory first language even in Kannada-medium schools, particularly in border districts such as Kasaragod.

In his letter, Siddaramaiah said the relationship between Karnataka and Kerala has long been guided by mutual respect, cooperative federalism and shared constitutional responsibility. He stressed that India's strength lies in its linguistic and cultural plurality, which has thrived through coexistence rather than compulsion.

Highlighting the unique linguistic fabric of border regions like Kasaragod, the Chief Minister noted that Malayalam, Kannada, Tulu, Beary and several other languages have coexisted harmoniously for generations. He warned that mandating a single language could burden children, weaken minority-run educational institutions and disrupt established educational systems trusted by local communities. Siddaramaiah pointed out that a significant section of Kasaragod's population, particularly in the border belt, prefers Kannada-medium education due to long-standing social, cultural and economic ties with Karnataka. Respecting this reality, he said, would strengthen India's plural character rather than undermine Malayalam.

Referring to constitutional safeguards, the Chief Minister cited Articles 29 and 30, which protect linguistic minorities, along with Articles 350A and 350B that mandate mother-tongue instruction and protection of minority linguistic interests. He said any legislation must uphold not only constitutional legality but also constitutional morality.

Urging Kerala to reconsider the Bill, Siddaramaiah called for broader consultations with linguistic minorities, educators and neighbouring states. He cautioned that if the Bill is passed, Karnataka would oppose it using all constitutional means to defend linguistic minorities and the plural spirit of the Republic.

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah urges Kerala to reconsider the proposed Malayalam Language Bill, citing constitutional protections and concerns over linguistic minorities

CM and DCM to meet Prez over Malayalam Language Bill

BELAGAVI

Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadgi on Friday said a delegation led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar will soon meet President Droupadi Murmu, urging her not to grant assent to the Malayalam Language Bill passed by the Kerala government. He said the bill could adversely affect the interests of Kannadigas living in Kerala's border regions, particularly Kasargod.

Bengal CM Mamata protests against ED action on I-PAC

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday took to the streets of Kolkata to protest the Enforcement Directorate's searches at the residence and offices of I-PAC chief Pratik Jain. Leading a rally with senior Trinamool Congress leaders, ministers, MPs, MLAs and party supporters, Banerjee accused the BJP-led Centre of using central agencies to target political opponents ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

The march began from the 8B Bus Stand area, with supporters raising slogans against what they described as political vendetta. The protest followed Banerjee's visit a day earlier to Jain's Loudon Street residence while ED officials were conducting searches. The chief minister alleged that the agency attempted to seize TMC's internal documents, digital devices and confidential organisational data unrelated to any financial probe. Banerjee also strongly criticised the detention of TMC MPs during a protest outside the Union Home Ministry in Delhi, calling it "shameful and unacceptable" and an attack on democratic rights. In a post on X, she said dragging elected representatives for exercising their right to protest reflected "arrogance in uniform," adding that India was a democracy, not the BJP's private property.

> ED has moved the Calcutta High Court seeking a CBI probe, alleging obstruction of its searches and misuse of state machinery, including involvement of senior political and police officials.

Accusing the BJP of double standards, Banerjee said opposition leaders were detained and humiliated while ruling party leaders enjoyed privileges during protests. She asserted that dignity, dissent and mutual respect between institutions were essential to democracy.

> **What I did yesterday, I did as the TMC chairperson. I have done nothing illegal... They tried to steal my party's data... If someone comes to kill me, don't I have the right to self-defence?"**
>
> **"If someone tries to hit me politically, I get politically rejuvenated.**
>
> —Mamata Banerjee, WB CM

K'taka Assembly to hold 2-day session on MGNREGA: DCM

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government will convene a two-day special session of the Legislative Assembly to deliberate on issues related to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the Centre's newly introduced rural employment law, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced on Friday.

Addressing reporters, Shivakumar said the special session would focus on the possible impact on rural workers following the replacement of MGNREGA with the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, also known as the VB-G RAM-G Bill. "We have decided to hold a two-day special session on the MGNREGA issue. It will be discussed extensively. The BJP is going to campaign on this—let them explain their programmes as well," he said.

"If there was corruption worth ₹11 lakh crore, let the CBI investigate," he remarked.

DKS challenges BJP to debate on MGNREGA

The Deputy CM also challenged Union Minister Pralhad Joshi to a public debate on the differences between the two schemes. "Let him come forward for a debate on what has changed between MGNREGA and the new VB-G RAM-G Bill. Fix a date, choose a TV channel, and let the people hear the truth," Shivakumar said.

CH PHOTO

Eviction drive continues for second day at Thanisandra

BENGALURU

Bengaluru witnessed tense scenes for the second consecutive day on Friday as eviction operations resumed at Thanisandra amid tight police security. With the situation remaining sensitive, authorities carried out the removal of alleged encroachments under heavy police deployment to prevent any law-and-order issues.

Residents expressed strong anger over what they described as a sudden eviction without prior notice. Many claimed they were neither informed in advance nor compensated with the advance money they had paid. Tearfully narrating their plight, several affected families said that had they received refunds earlier, they would have made alternative housing arrangements.

The eviction pertains to nearly two acres of land in Survey Numbers 28/1 and 28/2 of K.R. Puram Hobli, Thanisandra. Based on the Keshav Narayan Committee report, the High Court had directed the clearing of encroachments on the land. Following the court's order, officials of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) began the eviction process from Thursday.

Local residents alleged that they had been living in the area for over a decade and accused BDA officials of carrying out the operation without issuing any formal notices. Many said they possessed property-related documents, including A-khata certificates, electricity bills and water bills, and therefore believed the land was legally occupied. Several residents claimed they were unaware that the land was classified as government property.

PM to host German Chancellor on maiden India visit

NEW DELHI

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz will undertake a two-day official visit to India beginning January 12, during which he will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Ahmedabad, marking his first visit to the country since assuming office.

Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Merz are scheduled to meet in Ahmedabad on Monday, where they will jointly visit the Sabarmati Ashram and participate in the International Kite Festival at the Sabarmati Riverfront. The leaders will later proceed to Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar for formal bilateral engagements. According to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the visit comes at a significant moment as India and Germany recently marked 25 years of their Strategic Partnership. The discussions between the two leaders will review progress achieved so far and explore ways to further deepen cooperation across key sectors.

Internal quota: Guv returns bill to govt, seeks clarifications

BENGALURU

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has returned the Bill providing for internal reservation among Scheduled Castes (SCs) to the state government, seeking further clarifications, Raj Bhavan (Lok Bhavan) said on Friday. The Bill was passed during the Belagavi session of the Legislature last month, and the delay in its approval could affect recruitment to government services and admissions to state-run educational institutions.

According to Lok Bhavan, the Governor has sought explanations regarding certain concerns surrounding the Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Bill. The proposed law restructures the existing 17 per cent SC reservation under a 6-6-5 formula. Under this framework, Madiga and 15 related castes are placed in Group A with 6 per cent reservation, Holeya and 18 affiliated castes in Group B with another 6 per cent, and Lambani, Bhovi, Korma, Korcha and 59 'most backward' SC communities in Group C with 5 per cent.

ATTACK PLAN DROPPED

Trump cancels second wave of attacks on Venezuela

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Friday that he has called off a previously expected second wave of military attacks on Venezuela, citing cooperation from the South American nation in recent days. Trump said that relations with Venezuela have taken a positive turn, with Caracas showing willingness to work with Washington, including the release of political prisoners and moves to collaborate on energy infrastructure. "The U.S. and Venezuela are working well together," he wrote in a social media post. As part of this emerging cooperation, Trump noted that the United States plans to meet with major oil companies — often referred to as "big oil" — at the White House to promote investment in Venezuela's energy sector. He said at least $100 billion is expected to be invested by these firms in the country's oil and gas infrastructure.

Despite canceling further offensive strikes, Trump stressed that U.S. military forces and naval vessels in the region would remain in place for safety and security purposes. The decision follows a dramatic period of U.S.–Venezuelan interactions, including a previous military operation that led to the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and other developments that have reshaped diplomatic and strategic calculations.

The shift toward cooperation on economic and security issues marks a significant change from recent tensions between the two countries. Trump's announcement underscores a potential pivot in U.S. foreign policy toward Venezuela, blending diplomatic engagement with ambitious economic interests tied to one of the world's largest oil reserves.

QUICK READ

Belagavi sugar factory accident: Death toll climbs to 8

BELAGAVI

The death toll in the tragic sugarcane juice spillage incident at Inamdar Sugars in Markumbi village of Bailhongal taluk has risen to eight after another critically injured worker died during treatment on Friday morning. The accident occurred on the fourth floor of the factory when boiling sugarcane juice spilled while Actuated Valve Control Packages (AVCP) were being replaced at compartment-1. Eight employees sustained severe burn injuries in the mishap and were rushed to private hospitals in Belagavi. Among them, Raghavendra Mallappa Giriyal (36) of Gokak, who had been in critical condition for the past three days, succumbed to his injuries, becoming the eighth victim.

Khamenei accuses Iran rioters of appeasing Donald Trump

TEHRAN

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Friday accused some protesters of trying to appease US President Donald Trump by damaging public property, while addressing nationwide unrest in a speech aired on state television. Urging citizens to maintain unity, Khamenei said the Islamic Republic would not tolerate "mercenaries" acting on behalf of foreign powers. He also advised Trump to focus on domestic issues in the United States. The remarks came amid reports of a nationwide internet shutdown that began on Thursday and continued into Friday, according to monitoring group NetBlocks. Rights groups report at least 34 protesters and four security personnel killed, with over 2,200 arrests. *More on page 8*

QUICK READ

Zepto delivery executive attacked, struck with helmet

Bengaluru

A Zepto delivery executive was assaulted by two scooty riders after a minor collision in Mahadevapura. The attackers struck him on the chest with a helmet and repeatedly punched him, leaving him collapsed on the road. An elderly bystander intervened, confronting the assailants and stopping the assault, likely preventing more serious injury. The attack was caught on video and shared on X, prompting Mahadevapura police from the Whitefield division to take suo-motu action in the case. Authorities are investigating the incident to identify and apprehend the culprits.

Theft in front of Yelahanka police station sparks outrage

Bengaluru

In a brazen act, thieves struck in front of the Yelahanka police station near RMZ Mall on Thursday evening. They smashed the windows of two parked cars, stealing a laptop from one and cash along with a laptop from the other. The audacious theft shocked onlookers and sparked panic among the public, raising questions about safety. Residents expressed anger over such incidents occurring right outside a police station, questioning how security can be ensured elsewhere. Authorities have registered a case and are reviewing CCTV footage to identify and apprehend the culprits.

I don't need governance lessons, says DKS to HDK

Bengaluru

DK Shivakumar hit back at HD Kumaraswamy's remarks, asserting he has more governance experience despite not being Chief Minister. Speaking to reporters at the KPCC office, Shivakumar said, "I may not be the Chief Minister, but I have more experience in governance than him. I don't need to learn from them." Responding to Kumaraswamy's objection over a meeting with police officials in Ballari, he added, "I have worked as a Minister for a long time. I know very well how to govern, with whom to hold meetings and with whom to do so."

Only 26 Kogilu squatters to receive houses: Min

Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan said only verified locals and Karnataka residents will get alternative homes

BENGALURU

Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan clarified that, out of 161 families affected by the Kogilu settlement eviction, only 26 will be provided alternative houses after their documents were verified. "Minister Krishna Byre Gowda had called me regarding providing houses to the Kogilu victims. The documents of 26 people have been verified," Khan said.

He added that verification for the remaining families is ongoing. Out of a total of 261 houses, 161 were vacated. While more applications for alternative arrangements have been received, not all families can be accommodated. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah decided that priority would be given to those whose houses were vacated, provided they are locals and Karnataka residents. Families must have been Bangalore residents for at least five years to qualify.

On the issue of illegality, Khan said, "I do not know who the accused in the Kogilu Layout illegality is."

The Greater Bangalore Authority (GBA) had evicted 180 families last week after finding that they had built houses illegally on government land. The evictions drew national attention, with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan criticizing the Karnataka government for its "bulldozer culture" against minorities. Kerala's Rajya Sabha members and ruling party MLAs visited the site and expressed support for the affected families.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar defended the operation, stating that the families were living illegally on government land. Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal later spoke with the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister. Following this, Siddaramaiah assured that verified local families would be provided alternative housing.

Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan confirmed that under his leadership, the verification process is ongoing and houses will be allotted accordingly to those who meet the criteria, ensuring that legal residents are prioritized.

This decision marks the government's effort to balance enforcement of land laws with rehabilitation of genuine local residents affected by the evictions.

Yoga nearly halves opioid withdrawal time: Study

BENGALURU

A collaborative study by NIMHANS and Harvard Medical School has found that yoga can dramatically reduce recovery time from opioid withdrawal, nearly halving it. Published in JAMA Psychiatry on January 7, the research showed patients practising yoga alongside standard buprenorphine medication overcame withdrawal symptoms in five days, compared to nine days for those receiving medication alone. Participants also reported better sleep, reduced anxiety, and less pain.

The study enrolled 59 participants aged 18 to 50 (mean age 25.6) from Karnataka, West Bengal, and Manipur between April 30, 2023, and March 31, 2024. Participants were randomly assigned to two groups in NIMHANS' addiction medicine inpatient ward. One group followed a 45-minute yoga program—including relaxing postures, pranayama, breathing exercises, and brief Yoga Nidra—delivered over 10 sessions in 14 days alongside buprenorphine. The control group received standard care, including psychosocial support, counselling, and routine treatment.

Researchers highlighted yoga as a low-cost, high-impact supportive therapy with significant public health potential.

Researchers monitored Heart Rate Variability (HRV) to assess stress reactivity, a major challenge during withdrawal. The yoga group showed improved baseline HRV, indicating reduced sympathetic activity and enhanced parasympathetic response.

Dr Prabhat Chand, head of NIMHANS' Centre for Addiction Medicine, said, "Opioid addiction is much more challenging to treat than tobacco or alcohol dependence. About 80% of participants misused tapentadol, a prescription painkiller prevalent in Bengaluru, while others reported using injectable heroin. Tapentadol abuse is specific to the region."

The study highlights that pharmacological treatment alone is insufficient to address withdrawal-related stress. Researchers are exploring ways to scale the yoga intervention and plan to integrate "just-in-time" alerts and geocoding technologies to support patients during maintenance.

This research underlines yoga's potential as a low-cost, high-impact adjunct therapy for opioid dependence, offering both physical and mental health benefits while supporting quicker recovery.

BMC launches weekly phone-in programme to address public grievances

BENGALURU

Bengaluru North City Corporation (BBMC) Commissioner Pommala Suneel Kumar has launched a continuous phone-in programme every Friday morning to address citizens' grievances and improve municipal services.

The two-hour initiative, conducted from the Commissioner's office in Byatarayanapura on Amruthahalli Main Road, allows residents to directly share their problems with the administration. The programme is part of BBMC's efforts to implement citizen-friendly measures and streamline service delivery.

Since its launch on September 26, a total of 831 grievances have been registered in the last 15 weeks. Commissioner Kumar reviews action taken on a daily basis, with 575 complaints already resolved.

Complaints outside the North Municipal Corporation's jurisdiction are being transferred to the relevant municipal corporations or departments. So far, 42 such complaints have been redirected, while 184 remaining issues are being actively addressed by the Commissioner.

"This initiative ensures speedy resolution of public problems and strengthens accountability in municipal administration," said Kumar, highlighting the programme's role in improving governance and responsiveness.

The BBMC has pledged to continue the phone-in sessions every Friday morning, aiming to make local governance more transparent and accessible for residents.

AI girlfriend trap: Techie loses ₹1.5 lakh in sextortion scam

BENGALURU

A 22-year-old software professional from Ejipura fell victim to a sophisticated sextortion scam after connecting with a deepfake AI "girlfriend" on a dating app, losing Rs 1.5 lakh in the process.

The cloud engineer, employed at a private firm, created a profile on the dating app Happn and matched with a woman identifying herself as "Ishani" on January 5. Initial chats on the app progressed to WhatsApp, where the conversations became increasingly intimate. Later that day, the victim received a video call from the woman, who coaxed him into stripping. Unknown to him, the session was secretly recorded. Shortly after, he began receiving threatening calls and messages, warning that the intimate video would be circulated among his friends and contacts unless he paid money. Panicked and fearing public embarrassment, the techie first transferred Rs 60,000. The demands escalated, and on January 6, he sent another Rs 93,000 through multiple digital transactions to a bank account and two UPI IDs provided by the scammers. Despite making payments, the harassment continued, prompting him to confide in close friends, who advised him to approach the authorities.

Land Delays, Encroachments Stall Suburban Rail Project

BENGALURU

Delays in land acquisition by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) and unresolved encroachments have slowed the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), according to a government summary. These hurdles are impeding a key mass transit initiative designed to ease city congestion, with the issue becoming more pronounced after infrastructure major L&T terminated its contract earlier this year, citing Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation's (K-RIDE) failure to provide unencumbered work fronts and sufficient land.

A cabinet note prepared last week highlighted that land acquisition delays remain the primary bottleneck. Of the 283.1 acres required for corridors 2 and 4, only 218.5 acres have been handed over to K-RIDE, leaving 5.8 acres for corridor 2 and 49.4 acres for corridor 4 pending since 2023. Corridor 2 stretches over 9 km, while corridor 4 extends nearly 12 km, with acquisition delays affecting construction timelines on both stretches.

Rising land costs have added to the financial strain. The original detailed project report had estimated Rs 1,470

crore for land acquisition, rehabilitation, and resettlement, but current costs have escalated to approximately Rs 5,000 crore. Under the agreement between Indian Railways and the Karnataka government, the state bears the entire acquisition cost, intensifying the fiscal burden.

The delays have also impacted corridors 1 and 3, with land acquisition put on hold due to pending approval of alignment drawings by South Western Railway. The Infrastructure Development Department (IDD) has been directed by the finance department to pause work along these corridors until clearances are secured.

The cabinet has approved re-tendering of corridors 2 and 4, with a revised project estimate of Rs 16,000 crore. Officials stress that resolving land acquisition and encroachment issues is critical for regaining momentum on this flagship urban transport project.

9th Footpath Walk to Promote Pedestrian Safety in Kammanahalli

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru North City Corporation is organizing the 9th Footpath Walk under the "Walkaluru" Project to raise awareness about pedestrian safety, smooth mobility, and the importance of walkable streets. The community-based 5.2 km walk will take place on January 10 at 7:30 AM, starting from Joyalukkas on Kammanahalli Main Road in the Sarvajnanagar Division.

The walk aims to assess local walkability on-site and identify areas that need improvement. Previous walks have covered 5 km in Banaswadi, 7 km in Thanisandra, 10 km in Yelahanka, and 7 km in R.T. Nagar, while a New Year's Day walk spanned JC Nagar to Mekhri Circle. In total, 29 km of pedestrian audits have been conducted within the Bengaluru North City Corporation limits.

The Kammanahalli route will take participants from Joyalukkas to Mariyappa Circle, onto CMR Road up to Banaswadi Club, back via Mariyappa Circle to Kammanahalli Main Road, then to Empire Signal, onto CMR Road, and return via Hennur Road to Mariyappa Circle, concluding at Joyalukkas.

ACCUSED COLLECTED ₹40K-70K TO ALLOT ILLEGAL SITES IN KOGILU

BENGALURU

Bengaluru police investigating illegal constructions on encroached government land in Kogilu village, Yelahanka, are planning to arrest a third accused in the case, following the earlier arrest of two self-styled activists, Vijay and Wasim Ulla Baig.

According to officials, Vijay and Wasim collected between Rs 40,000 and Rs 70,000 from several occupants, promising them small plots of land. To create an appearance of legitimacy, the duo, with the assistance of Robin—who posed as a government official—marked out plots measuring 20x15 or 15x15 feet and allotted the encroached land. Most of the illegal structures were in Wasim Layout, the newest among three identified layouts: Fakir Layout, Fakir Layout-1, and Wasim Layout.

The two men reportedly acted as middlemen, shifting families to Fakir Layout-1 and Wasim Layout, where

most constructions were illegal. Police say the oldest layout, Fakir Layout, had fewer unauthorised structures, while the bulk of encroachments occurred in Wasim Layout.

The investigation stems from a complaint filed by Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) engineer Santosh Kumar Kaddi. He stated that 14 acres and 36 guntas of land in survey number 99 had been transferred under orders from the Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner in 2014–15 and earmarked for civic infrastructure, including a bio-methanation unit, sewage treatment plant, and waste processing facilities. When Bengaluru Smart City/BSWLR Ltd floated tenders in 2023, officials discovered nearly four acres had been illegally encroached, with makeshift houses constructed without authorisation.

In his complaint, Kaddi named Vijay, Wasim Ulla Baig, Robin, and Muni Anjanappa as the main accused who collected money from residents to allot and construct houses on government land. The police are continuing their investigation and have indicated that further arrests are imminent as they work to dismantle the illegal land distribution network.

WOMEN-FRIENDLY CITY

B'luru Tops List of India's Women-Friendly Cities 2025

BENGALURU

Bengaluru has retained its No. 1 position as the most women-friendly city in India, according to Avtar's Top Cities for Women in India (TCWI) 2025 report. Chennai, Pune, Hyderabad, and Mumbai completed the top five, while Gurugram climbed to sixth, up from ninth last year, driven largely by industrial inclusion gains.

The 2025 report, covering 125 cities and comparing data since 2022, evaluated women's inclusion through a City Inclusion Score (CIS), which

combines a Social Inclusion Score (SIS) and Industrial Inclusion Score (IIS). SIS measured safety, livability, representation in employment, and broader empowerment, while IIS assessed women's workplace participation, representation, and career enablement opportunities.

Bengaluru led with a CIS of 53.2, thanks to sustained strength in industrial inclusion and career support. Chennai ranked second (49.8), excelling in social inclusion with strong safety mechanisms, mobility services, and access to health and education. Pune (46.2), Hyderabad (46), and Mumbai (44.4) rounded out the top five, showing consistent performance across both social and industrial indicators.

The report highlighted Bengaluru's employment-first design and supportive infrastructure as key drivers. Women help desks, tech-enabled and community policing, and NGO-led street-lighting audits have improved public safety, reduced commuting risks, and enhanced response times.

99% e-Khata Applications Cleared, Greater B'luru Authority Reports

BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority has reported strong progress in its e-Khata rollout, with over 99 percent of applications cleared across the city, according to data as of January 7. Of the 9.1 lakh applications received across five city corporations, around 9 lakh have been processed successfully.

West Bengaluru led in application volume with 2.7 lakh, followed by South with 2 lakh. Officials noted that higher pendency in these zones corresponded to application inflow, with delays primarily due to mutation processing, accounting for over 90 percent of pending cases. West recorded the most mutation cases pending beyond seven days.

Despite minor delays, disposal efficiency remains high, with all corporations maintaining clearance rates above 99 percent. The average pendency across Bengaluru stands at just two days, reflecting a maturing and efficient digital property documentation system, according to a senior official.

POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF KARNATAKA'S LONGEST SERVING CM

The Making of a Chief Minister: Siddaramaiah's Journey

Karnataka's Five Guarantees

A New Model of Welfare and Inclusion

These guarantee schemes are central to Siddaramaiah's governance strategy in Karnataka, described by the government as pro-poor welfare commitments that enhance living standards. They cover basic needs like food, energy, mobility, cash support to women heads of households, and youth unemployment support.

Gruha Jyothi

Free electricity up to a fixed number of units for households, easing monthly power expenses.

Shakti

Free bus travel for women across the state, promoting mobility, safety, and workforce participation.

Yuva Nidhi

Unemployment assistance for educated youth until they secure a job or start self-employment.

Gruha Lakshmi

Monthly financial assistance to the woman head of every family to strengthen household security.

Anna Bhagya

Free food grains (or equivalent support) for eligible families to ensure food security.

What Motivated Siddaramaiah's Guarantee Push?

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has articulated several motivations behind these schemes:

1. Social Justice & Equity

He said the guarantees follow a social justice principle — aiming to redistribute wealth and empower vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth.

2. Universal Basic Income Approach

Siddaramaiah described the five guarantees as part of a Universal Basic Income model — a safety net for the poor and middle class that enhances their purchasing power and economic participation.

3. Political Mandate

These schemes were core manifesto promises during campaigning — and fulfilling them was seen as honoring the trust placed by voters.

4. Economic Multiplier Effect

Officials have argued that increased consumption through direct transfers leads to broader economic activity, including higher GST collections, which the CM highlighted in policy speeches.

Real Lives, Real Impact

Across Karnataka — from city streets to rural villages — the five guarantees have touched millions of lives. Women like Savitha and Shalini, youth like Arjun, and families across the state vividly express how even small, regular support has transformed daily life and aspirations. These schemes show how a state government can reorient public spending toward direct welfare with measurable reach, even as fiscal challenges persist and debates continue over sustainability and equity.

When the Congress Party returned to power in Karnataka in 2023, it brought with it a bold vision: to implement all five guarantees it had promised in its election manifesto. These schemes — focused on gender equity, household welfare, youth support, and basic needs — were designed to act like a Universal Basic Income safety net, boosting purchasing power and narrowing economic disparities across the state.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah publicly defended the guarantees as strategic social investments and a response to deep-rooted inequality — not mere "freebies." They were meant to provide immediate relief, especially to the poor and vulnerable, and stimulate economic participation by increasing consumption and confidence in the economy.

Gruha Lakshmi

A direct monthly cash transfer of ₹2,000 to every woman head of a household under the poverty line. About 1.24 crore women across the state have received support under this scheme. The State government has approximately spent Rs 50,005 crore has been spent so far. Voices from the ground:

"I can now send my children to school without worrying about tuition fees," says Savitha, a mother of three from Ramanagara.

"This money has helped me start a small tailoring business,"

adds Geetha from Mysuru.

Impact

For many women, the monthly cash is not just an allowance — it's financial independence and dignity.

Gruha Jyothi

Free Electricity for Households. Free electricity for the first 200 units per month for every registered household. About 1.64 crore households have registered and have taken benefit of this scheme. The state has approximately spent ₹18,139 crore so far.

Voices from the ground

"Our monthly bill used to be overwhelming," says Ramesh of Ballari. "Now we use lights and fans freely without stress."

Prema, a homemaker in Hubballi, says: "Last summer, my fridge ran without pauses. This saved us from wastage and heat." This scheme reduces household burden, especially for large families and those with frequent electricity needs.

Anna Bhagya

Free Rice for BPL Families. Each Below Poverty Line (BPL) family member receives 10 kg of rice per month free — 5 kg from the Centre's NFSA + 5 kg from the state under Anna Bhagya.

Over 72 crore rice distributions have been made since the launch, serving millions of beneficiaries.

About ₹11,821.17 crore has been spent so far.

The Week

Voices from the ground:

Lakshmi, a farmer's wife in Raichur, says: "Rice for the family means food security — especially for children."

Impact and Challenges:

While widely used, some reports show delays in disbursement in certain areas, highlighting implementation challenges.

Shakti

Free Bus Travel for Women. All women in Karnataka get free travel on ordinary government buses (KSRTC, BMTC, etc.) from anywhere to anywhere. Statewide use is massive — over 500 crore free women bus rides have been recorded. Government disbursements to transport corporations total around ₹11,748 crore, with pending dues of about ₹4,006 crore to RTCs.

Voices from the ground

"I travel to work every day without worrying about fare," says Shalini, a daily commuter in Bengaluru.

Radha from Tumakuru adds: "My daughters go to college every day happily — free travel gives them freedom."

This scheme has broadened mobility for women, aiding employment, education, and access to services.

Yuva Nidhi

Unemployment Support for Youth. Unemployed graduates get ₹3,000 per month and diploma holders ₹1,500 per month for up to 2 years or until employment. Approximately 2.55–2.9 lakh youth have enrolled under Yuva Nidhi. About ₹623 crore has been spent so far.

Voices from the ground

Arjun, an engineering graduate from Belagavi: "The allowance helped me prepare for exams without worrying about food or rent."

Meera, a diploma holder in Hubballi: "It's not a handout — it's a lifeline for us until we find jobs."

Impact

This scheme cushions the vulnerable transition phase for youth entering the workforce.

Overall Spending & Scale

Since coming to power, the government has allocated tens of thousands of crores to implement these guarantees. Estimates show that by mid-2025, around ₹97,813 crore had already been disbursed across all five schemes.

The government's budgetary estimates for the five years total about ₹3 lakh crore — roughly ₹60,000 crore per year, underscoring the scale and fiscal commitment to welfare.

QUICK READ

Bharat Petroleum seeks ex-servicemen for services

CHITRADURGA

Bharat Petroleum has invited applications from ex-servicemen to provide services related to the sale of petroleum products in Bantwal taluk of the Mangaluru region. Interested candidates can submit their applications through the Soldiers' Welfare and Rehabilitation Department by January 12. This opportunity allows retired service personnel to continue contributing to essential energy services. For further details, applicants can visit Bharat Petroleum's official website at www.bharatpetroleum.in. Dr. C.A. Hiremath, Deputy Director of the Soldiers' Welfare and Rehabilitation Department, Shivamogga, confirmed the announcement in a press release, encouraging eligible ex-servicemen to apply promptly and take advantage of this opportunity.

Engineering student dies in hostel after collapsing

SHIVAMOGGA

A 21-year-old engineering student, Ganesh from Bellary, tragically died after collapsing in a hostel in Vajpayee Layout, Shivamogga. Ganesh was pursuing Computer Science Engineering at a private college in the city and was staying in a post-matric hostel. He collapsed while going to take a bath on the morning of January 9. Hostel staff rushed him to the hospital, but he passed away on the way. Local authorities suspect a heart attack as the cause. Ganesh was known as a talented student, and his sudden death has left family, friends, and fellow students shocked and mourning.

Eshwarappa seeks higher security after receiving foreign call

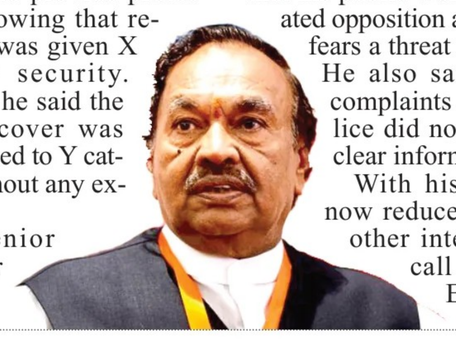
Eshwarappa said he requested investigation and protection, received X category security, later inexplicably downgraded to Y category

SHIVAMOGGA

Former Deputy Chief Minister K S Eshwarappa appealed to district security officials to increase his personal security after receiving an international phone call from an unknown foreign number.

In his written request, Eshwarappa said his mobile phone received a call on January 7 from an overseas number. He said the call was disconnected immediately and was cut again when he tried to return it. He added that he had received similar calls on two earlier occasions.

Eshwarappa stated that in the past he had asked the government to investigate such calls and to provide protection. Following that request, he was given X category security. However, he said the security cover was later reduced to Y category without any explanation.



The senior BJP leader said he is active in social and religious activities and is currently associated with the Govardhan Trust, which works for cow protection. He claimed that his public work has created opposition and that he fears a threat to his life. He also said earlier complaints to the police did not result in clear information.

With his security now reduced and another international call received, Eshwarappa said he has again requested protection. He has urged both the central and state governments, through district security officers, to restore X category security and provide a security escort.

District security officials acknowledged receipt of the request and assured him that the matter would be investigated and placed before higher authorities. Leaders from Rashtrakhand Balaka and supporters were present when the appeal was submitted, urging action by authorities.

The farmer's side rejected the request, attempted to tow the seized Innova, but failed due to inadequate towing equipment

Official's car seized over farmer compensation delay

HASSAN

In a rare and serious development, a court ordered the seizure of the Hassan Deputy Commissioner's official car due to a long delay in paying compensation to a farmer whose land was acquired for a public project. Acting on the court's direction, the affected farmer arrived with his lawyer and seized the vehicle on Friday. The case relates to land acquired nearly fifteen years ago for the Yagachi canal project. The Irrigation Department had taken land in Survey No. 44/1 at Hatuvere Gunte, belonging to Marigowda, a farmer from Bhaktaravalli village in Alur taluk. The government had fixed compensation of Rs 11,22,559 for the land, but the amount was not paid even after many years. After waiting for over a decade, Marigowda and his children approached the court seeking justice. Taking the delay seriously, the court ordered the confiscation of the Deputy Commissioner's car until the compensation issue was resolved.

On Friday afternoon, the farmer, accompanied by his lawyer Manjunath, reached the Deputy Commissioner's office and seized the car. At the time, Deputy Commissioner K.S. Lathakumari was attending an official meeting inside her office. Additional Deputy Commissioner Jagadish B.A. later arrived and requested time until evening to release the compensation amount. However, the farmer's side did not accept the request and arranged for a vehicle to tow away the seized car. The towing attempt failed after the driver said the official Innova vehicle could not be carried using the available towing vehicle.

As the situation continued, the farmer and his family remained near the seized car, demanding immediate action. The incident has drawn public attention to delays in land compensation cases and raised questions about accountability in government departments. The case has also sent a strong message on the consequences of prolonged administrative inaction.

Housing Minister aide faces illegal resort allegations

MADIKERI

Public anger has erupted in Kodagu district following allegations that the personal secretary of the Housing Minister has built an illegal luxury resort near a protected forest area. Locals and environmental activists have accused authorities of applying different rules for ordinary citizens and influential people.

According to reports, Housing Minister's personal secretary Sarfaraz Khan allegedly constructed a resort in Vanachil village under Galibidu gram panchayat limits in Madikeri taluk. It is claimed that the resort was built without obtaining mandatory permissions from concerned departments. Residents allege that while small huts built by poor people in forest areas are quickly demolished, large resorts by powerful individuals are ignored. As per rules, land must be converted for commercial use before building a resort. Clearances are required from the panchayat, forest, environment, pollution control, and revenue departments. However, locals claim no such permissions were taken in this case. The area falls close to the Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary, which is an eco-sensitive zone. Rules clearly state that no large construction is allowed within one kilometre of the sanctuary. The disputed resort is reportedly located just 540 metres from the eco-sensitive boundary, raising serious environmental concerns. Activists have warned that they will launch protests if a high-level probe is not ordered. Responding to the allegations, the Madikeri Tahsildar told media that permission was granted to Sarfaraz Khan to build a farmhouse on December 12, 2023. However, rules allow only ten percent of the land area for farmhouse construction. Officials claim the structure exceeds permitted limits and includes facilities like a large swimming pool.

MLA Channabasappa clarifies G RAM G scheme debate

SHIVAMOGGA

Channabasappa said the new scheme aims to make workers skilled, productive, self-reliant, creating long-term employment, not temporary relief, with the Ramji scheme supporting jobs and rural economic growth.

Former MLA S.N. Channabasappa accused the state Congress government of creating unnecessary confusion over the VB- G RAM G scheme, saying it was meant for complete village development.

Speaking at a press conference, he said the G RAM G scheme was introduced by the Centre with the aim of improving rural infrastructure, skills, and quality of life. He claimed the earlier MNREGA programme focused mainly on wages and paperwork, while villages remained unchanged.

Channabasappa said the new scheme aimed to make workers skilled, productive, and self-reliant. He added that employment should create long-term value instead of temporary relief. According to him, the Ramji scheme supports job creation and strengthens rural economies.

He also pointed out that the BJP-led central government has increased MNREGA workdays from 100 to 125 and raised wage allocations. He said the scheme budget was increased significantly to support rural workers.

Referring to national development, Channabasappa said the Centre has allocated Rs 2 lakh crore keeping in mind India's vision for 2047. He urged the Chief Minister to avoid politics and support development. Party leaders including N.K. Jagadish, Mohan Reddy, and others were present. In a separate remark, he said the BJP believed in inclusive politics and respected senior leaders. He said decisions about party matters would be taken by the leadership, and expressed confidence in unity. He added that development-focused schemes should not be misrepresented, as rural progress depends on cooperation, clarity, and honest implementation. He concluded that public welfare must remain above political arguments for the nation's future. He appealed to leaders to focus on villages, jobs, and dignity of labourers only.

Kudremukh Forest dwellers relocation plan announced

MANGALURU

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre announced a plan for the relocation of people living in the Kudremukh forest area, saying efforts will be made to implement it carefully and fairly. He spoke to reporters after laying the foundation stone for the new residence of the Deputy Conservator of Forests near Karavali Utsav Maidan in Lalbagh on Friday. The minister highlighted that the Karnataka Forest Department is considered a model in the country, with modern technology being used to manage forest operations. Integrated Command Centers have been set up across the state, including one recently inaugurated in Bengaluru, to improve monitoring and management. Khandre also focused on measures to prevent human-animal conflict, especially involving elephants and tigers. He said a special elephant task force is being formed to control their movement and reduce conflicts with villagers. Complaints received on the 1926 helpline will be immediately forwarded to the appropriate authorities. The Range Forest Officer (RFO) and Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) will inspect the location and take action as needed. He explained that if elephants move outside forest areas, the information will be shared instantly with the concerned forest range through the command center.

Congress alleges MLA role in Hubballi incident

HUBBALLI

Congress leaders alleged that BJP MLA Mahesh Tenginakai was behind the recent stripping incident involving a BJP woman worker in Hubballi.

Addressing a press conference, Congress leader Rajat Ullagaddi Math claimed the case was a planned political "toolkit" meant to disturb peace and gain attention.

He alleged that the MLA acted out of fear of losing influence in his constituency ahead of upcoming elections. According to him, several BJP leaders are eyeing the same seat, pushing Tenginakai to create controversy.

Math said the Congress party is strong in Ward 59, and the incident was aimed at damaging the party's image. He claimed the timing of the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister's visit and the release of the video were deliberate.The Congress leader further alleged that the video was recorded by the woman's brother and later handed over to the MLA. He said the police were unfairly blamed, while the woman had undressed herself before entering the police vehicle.

Math added that some BJP leaders changed their stand after learning the facts. He also released an old viral video and said several people had suffered due to the woman's actions.

He announced that Congress leaders would submit a complaint to the Police Commissioner seeking a fresh investigation into the matter.

He said a delegation would meet senior officers soon and demand fair action. The Congress maintained that false narratives were being spread to defame the party, police, and the city's reputation. Leaders urged citizens to remain calm and not fall for political provocation. They stressed that law and order must be protected and the truth should come out through a proper probe.Party leaders said justice for all sides was important and promised cooperation with authorities during the investigation process without delay or pressure. They appealed for peace, unity, and responsible public discussion.

LEAK SPARKS INVESTIGATION

Second PU preparatory exam paper leak case

SHIVAMOGGA

A complaint has been filed at Kote Police Station in Shivamogga after the Mathematics question paper of the Second PUC First Preparatory Examination was allegedly leaked before the exam. The complaint was lodged by Krishnappa, Deputy Director of the Pre-Graduate Education Department, raising serious concerns about exam security.

According to officials, the government is conducting two preparatory examinations for students studying in government and private pre-university colleges. As part of this system, deputy directors in each district are responsible for printing the question papers and safely delivering them to selected colleges. In Shivamogga district, the Mathematics question paper was stored at a government PU college, where the principal was appointed as the nodal officer and lecturers from other colleges were assigned as custodians.

The issue came to light during the Mathematics examination when the Deputy Director of Tumkur sent a four-page question paper to Krishnappa through WhatsApp. The message claimed that the paper was circulating on social media and belonged to Shivamogga district. Alarmed by this, Krishnappa immediately visited the examination centre and verified the question paper being used. He found that the paper received on WhatsApp matched exactly with the one given to students.

Following this, senior officials from the School Education Department contacted Krishnappa and sought detailed information. Suspecting that the question paper was leaked even before reaching the examination centre, he decided to approach the police.

Krishnappa said that the question papers are usually printed in another district and transported under strict supervision. However, in this case, the Mathematics paper appears to have been leaked during printing or transport, possibly through a mobile phone photograph. He added that exams will continue until January 17 and urged strict action to prevent further leaks. Police have begun an investigation into the matter.

Savings build security :Prabha Mallikarjun

DAVANAGERE

Member of Parliament Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun said that the habit of saving money is the foundation of future security, especially for students and rural families. He was speaking after inaugurating a new Sub Post Office at Shamanur near Davanagere.

Dr. Mallikarjun said the Indian Post Office has earned the trust of people as a reliable financial institution, particularly in villages.

He explained that postal savings schemes help common people secure their future through disciplined saving. He highlighted the importance of Postal Savings Bank services, including savings accounts, recurring deposits, and other financial options offered by the department. Addressing students, he said starting savings at a young age ensures safety in education and life.

He encouraged every student to open at least one savings bank account and one recurring deposit account. According to him, small and regular savings can bring long-term benefits and financial stability.

The MP also spoke about philately, or stamp collection, and said it is not just a hobby but a way to learn about the country's history and culture. He urged students and the general public to take part in philately exhibitions organized by the postal department.

Dr. Mallikarjun instructed postal officials to closely monitor the functioning of the newly opened Shamanur Sub Post Office. He directed them to submit a detailed progress report within three months to ensure better services for the public.

Several officials and dignitaries attended the programme, including Superintendent of Police Chandrashekar, Additional SP Rekha K, Additional SP Narendra Nayak K M, Postmaster Omkaramurthy M, PLI Development Officer Mahesh, Marketing Executive Santosh B, Shyabanur Sub Postmaster Prakash, Trust Chandrashekar, former municipal member Rudresh, and postal staff.

QUICK READ

Karnataka Janapada Academy offers fellowship grants

CHITRADURGA

Karnataka Janapada Academy has invited applications for fellowship study grants from general, Scheduled Caste, and Scheduled Tribe candidates. Interested scholars can select a topic from the academy's website and submit a five-page synopsis by January 23, 2026, to the Registrar at Kannada Bhavan, Bangalore. Fifteen fellowships are available: one for general, five for Scheduled Caste, and nine for Scheduled Tribe candidates. Selected applicants will be called for an interview, and successful candidates will undertake the fellowship research. Application forms, topics, and instructions are available online. The academy encourages scholars to conduct fieldwork and prepare study projects based on these approved titles.

Sringeri Peeth opens postgraduate studies applications

CHITRADURGA

Shri Jagadguru Shankaracharya Maha Sansthanam of Sringeri Sharada Peeth has invited applications for the "Diploma in Management and Research Program" for the 2026-28 academic year. This program is specially for children of serving and retired armed forces personnel. The course offers full tuition support under certain conditions. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply promptly to secure admission. For more details, applicants can contact 9218084965 or 9218084966. Dr. C.A. Hiremath, Deputy Director of Sainik Welfare and Rehabilitation Department, Shivamogga, confirmed the announcement in a press release, emphasizing that this opportunity aims to support education for soldier families.

Minister urges focus on water, fodder, plots

Min urged immediate tube wells for water shortages, prompt DC funds, and free fodder and cattle vaccination support

BENGALURU RURAL

District In-charge Minister KH Muniyappa on Friday instructed officials to take urgent measures to ensure sufficient drinking water for people and fodder for livestock ahead of the summer months of February to May. He presided over the Karnataka Development Programme (KDP) Quarterly Progress Review Meeting at the Zilla Panchayat Hall. The minister said that if any area faces drinking water shortages, tube wells should be dug immediately, electricity connected, and water supplied within a week. Funds from the DC account can be released promptly to address urgent water needs. He added that the livestock department and KMF will provide free fodder kits to farmers on irrigated lands and ensure timely vaccination of cattle. Muniyappa also discussed housing and land allocation. More than 500 government plots have already been prepared, and 1,000 sites in Devanahalli will be allocated within 15 days. A total of 2,500 plots have been sanctioned under the housing scheme, with 500 earmarked for each taluk. Village roads damaged due to JJM work must be repaired within 15 days. The minister stated that the Indira Kit is in the tender stage and will be distributed along with ration rice by late January or February. Farmers pending registration for millet under the support price scheme will be addressed in a sub-committee. He instructed officials to submit a list of industries and workers in the district.

He noted the district ranks 10th in paddy repair and urged completion by the end of 2026. Officers and tahsildars were reminded to maintain polite public interactions and meet residents twice a week.

MLAs raised local issues: Nelamangala MLA Srinivas N highlighted lack of doctors and ambulance services, while Doddaballapur MLA Dheeraj Muniraju noted delays at the Pollution Control Board office and pending compensation for a youth who died in a firecracker accident. SP Chandrakanth assured action on legal matters.

On the occasion, fish fry were distributed to women under the Matsya Sanjeevini scheme. Officials present included State Guarantee Scheme Vice President Suraj M Hegde, District Commissioner A.B. Basavaraju, CEO Dr. K.N. Anuradha, SP Chandrakanth, and other district-level representatives.

Weavers' textile market complex construction begins

BENGALURU RURAL

Construction of a new Weavers' Textile Market Complex in Doddaballapur city has begun, aiming to support local weavers and boost textile trade, said Minister K.H. Muniyappa. He performed the ground-breaking ceremony for the project on Friday. The two-storey complex will feature 30 shops and is being built at a cost of Rs 2.70 crores, funded through government grants and the MLA Local Area Development Fund. The first phase includes 15 shops at a cost of Rs 1 crore. Muniyappa said the market will allow local saree weavers to sell their products directly, reducing dependence on middlemen and providing fair profits. The project is also expected to encourage silk growers in the region. Doddaballapur MLA Dheeraj Muniraju emphasized that the market will create a structured platform for displaying and selling sarees woven by local artisans. He added that this initiative will strengthen the financial position of weavers, helping them gain recognition and stable income through direct sales. Officials and dignitaries present at the ceremony included District Guarantee Scheme Implementation Committee Chairman B. Rajanna, Municipal Council President Sumitra K. Anand, Doddaballapur Planning Authority President Chunchegowda, Deputy Director of the District Textile and Handloom Department Suresh Kumar S., as well as handloom traders, weavers, and local residents. Muniyappa said the market complex reflects the government's commitment to supporting traditional industries and improving the livelihood of artisans. The project is expected to be completed in stages.

Akka Pade scheme launched to protect women

BENGALURU RURAL

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister and Bengaluru District In-charge Minister K.H. Muniyappa launched the district-level Akka Pade scheme to strengthen safety and support systems for women and children. The programme was inaugurated at the District Administration Building in Devanahalli. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the main objective of Akka Pade is to provide immediate protection and assistance to women and children who are vulnerable or in distress. He said the scheme focuses on compassion, quick response, and community service. An Akka Pade unit consisting of four trained women home guards has been formed at the district level.

The Minister said the team will work as both a safety unit and an awareness group in society. Akka Pade aims to create confidence among women and children and ensure they receive timely help during emergencies. He added that legal awareness, education, and protection are key pillars of the initiative.

The scheme will help prevent violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation of women and children. It will also spread awareness about rights, laws, safety measures, and available support systems.

Bengaluru North MC reviews state grant projects

BENGALURU

Bengaluru North Municipal Corporation held a progress review meeting to assess works sanctioned under State Government grants. The meeting was chaired by Commissioner Shri Pommala Sunil Kumar and focused on projects funded through the Chief Minister's Discretionary Fund, the Special Infrastructure Capital Support Scheme, and a Rs. 694 crore grant within the corporation limits.

Officials discussed the progress of road cutting and asphalting works submitted through the M.A.R.C.S. software. The Commissioner instructed that all pending road projects be reviewed by assembly constituency and completed within the stipulated timeline. He also asked for a detailed list of road block tapping works to ensure pending tasks are finished quickly. Strict action was directed against unauthorized advertisements, including flexes, banners, and buntings. Ward and solid waste engineers were told to coordinate with marshals and immediately file FIRs against offenders, along with recovering fines. Similarly, the tender for providing towing vehicles to remove prohibited vehicles and maintain roadside parking should be finalised quickly.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GURUVENKATESHA MARASANDRA NARASIMHAIAH (old name), a resident of NO 1460, NANJUNDAIAH LAYOUT, NEAR CANARA BANK, BEGUR ROAD, BEGUR POST, BENGALURU - 560068, KARNATAKA, INDIA, have changed my name to MARASANDRA NARASIMHAIAH GURUVENKATESH (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 15-01-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

NAME CHANGE

I, **MOHOMED GOUSE**, S/o MOHAMMED ANIFA SAB, resident of No .169, Idga Road, Fort Houses, Varthur, Bangalore -560087, have changed my name to **MOHAMMED GHOUSE** , vide affidavit dated: 08.01.2026, before Notary A.M. RAJASEKAR, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SANJUD FERNANDES (old name), a resident of No 1783, K E B Colony, Taluka, Hon Navar Roshana Mohalla, Kasargod, Hon Navar, UTTARA KANNADA, KARNATAKA - 581342 INDIA, have changed my name to SANJUDE PASCOL FERNANDES (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 09-01-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, LAVINA (old name), a resident of No 1783, K E B Colony, Taluka, Hon Navar Roshana Mohalla, Kasargod, Hon Navar, UTTARA KANNADA, KARNATAKA - 581342 INDIA, have changed my name to LAVEENA SANJUDE FERNANDES (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 09-01-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

NAME CHANGE

I, **KEVAL CHAND CHHAJER** S/o Mohanlal Chhajer Resident of No.363, 18th F Main 6th Block Koramangala Bengaluru-560095, have changed my name to **KEWAL CHAND CHHAJER** Vide Affidavit Dated: 09.01.2026 before notary K.V.BACHI REDDY Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ATEEK AHMED**, S/o. P. Abdul Jabbar, resident of. NO 97/2, First Floor, Telegraph Street, Arokiyamma Layout, Venkateshpuram, Banglore -560045, have changed my name to **C.J. ATHEEQ AHAMED**, vide affidavit dated: 08.01.2026, before Notary CHANDRASHEKAR.M, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ABIDUNNISSA .M**, W/o. S.A.K. Mukthiyar Ahmed, resident of. NO 6, 12th A Cross, Sonappa Block, Pillanna Garden 3rd Stage, A C Post Bangalore -560045 have changed my name to **ABIDUNNISSA**, vide affidavit dated: 08.01.2026, before Notary CHANDRASHEKAR.M, Bengaluru.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

Govt of Karnataka
(Public Works, Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D, Sedam Division, Sedam

CORRIGENDUM NOTIFICATION

Sub:-Change Eligibility of contractors Tenders called in e-Procurement for the works under **CMIDP & 3054 SH & MDR Maintenance for the year 2025-26** In **Sedam**Taluka
Ref : 1) This office tender notification No.**2516** Dated : **30-12-2025**
With reference to the above subject, The tender called for the works Under **CMIDP & 3054 SH & MDR Maintenance for the year 2025-26** in **Sedam Division work** are Subjected to Change Eligibility of contractors Class-IV and above. Instead of class 1st and above as maintained in the original Tender Notification **No 2516 Dated: 30-12-2025.**
Tender condition in the original notification remains same and the information may be got from the website of e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka (https// www.eproc.Karnataka.gov.in)

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
PWD Divison, Sedam

DIPR/Kalaburagi/953/2025-26/Deshpande Publicity

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi

No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/Shahabad NGR/2025-26/1322 Date : 08-01-2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER - (3nd Call)

1) Detail of Work: Construction of 5.00 Lakhs Litres Capacity RCC Overhead tank (Shaft Type) on 15mtrs staging to cover areas at old Shahabad from ward No.01 to 04 and Ramgad Ashraya colony in Shahabad town and Construction of 2.50 Lakhs Litres Capacity RCC Overhead tank (Shaft Type) on15 mtrs staging to cover areas of ward No.25,26 and 27 in Shahabad town under Nagarothan (Phase-4) (Lumpsum-No Variation) (Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/ WORK_INDENT473), 2) Amount put to tender **: Rs.167.18 Lakhs (Excluding GST)** 3) Eligibility of Contractor **:** Eligible Contractors, 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount **: Rs.2,51,000/-,** 5) Period of Completion **:** 09 (Nine) Months, 6) Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the eprocurement portal **09-01-2026 after 13:00** hours, 7) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting**: 17.01.2026 at 11:30 hours**, 8) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders **: 27-01-2026 upto 17:30 hours** 9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender **: 29-01-2026 after 11:00 hours**, 10) Addl. information **: Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Telephone : 08472-220817 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com** 11) Address of E-portal **:** www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Engineer,
KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,
Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/948/Deshpande Publicity/2025-26

ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ

ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562123, ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 080–27722135, ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ:080–27723627
Email : ka.nelmangala.cmc@gmail.com, web-www.nelamangalacity.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ನಸನೆ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ(ವಿ)/ಟೆಂಡರ್/68/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 09.01.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)
(ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ KW 1&2 ರ &KG ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ & ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯ ಶೇಕಡ 24.10,7.25 ಮತ್ತು ಶೇಕಡ 5ರ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಅನುದಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಜಮೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ಬಡ್ತಿ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು **ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ: 139.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಐಟಾಂವಾರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮುಂತಾದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು. ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ:–

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ
1	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53081	34.00	ಇತರೆ
2	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK INDENT53149	10.00	ಇತರೆ
3	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK INDENT53907	10.00	ಇತರೆ
4	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK INDENT52977	20.00	Cat-2A
5	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK INDENT53012	30.00	Cat-1
6	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK INDENT53268	20.00	Schedule Tribes
7	DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK INDENT53634	15.00	Schedule Cast

ಸಹಿ/–
ಶ್ರೀ ಗಣೇಶ್ ಎನ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಶ್ರೀ ಆನಂದ್ ಜಿ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ಪದ್ಮನಾಭ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸ್ಥಾಯಿಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಶ್ರೀ ಗಂಗಾಧರ.ಹೆಚ್
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/4972/ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ/2025–26

ಪ್ರಮೋದ್ ಗೃಹ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘ ನಿ

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಗೌರವಾನ್ವಿತ ಸದಸ್ಯರಲ್ಲಿ ವಿನಂತಿ
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06/01/2026 ರ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಸಭೆಯ ನಡಾವಳಿಯಂತೆ ಈ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಪಂತರಪಾಳ್ಯ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೇ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ.57/1 ಈ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಘದ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾರಿಗಾದರೂ ಸಂಘವು ನಿವೇಶನವನ್ನು ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಸದರಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಪತ್ರದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಪ್ರತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15/01/2026 ರ ಒಳಗೆ ಸಂಘದ ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ತಲುಪಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ. ತಪ್ಪಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಘವು ಸದರಿ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ತನ್ನ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ನಿವೇಶನವನ್ನು ನೀಡಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಗೌರವಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ
ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪ್ರಮೋದ್ ಗೃಹ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘ ನಿ

Government of Karnataka
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYAT
O/o Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division,
First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road,
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple) Bengaluru-560070.

No.EE/RDW&SD/BNG(U)/TND/14/2025-26 Date: 08.01.2026

Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Tender Notice

Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public procurement portal for the works approved Under SBM Head of grants for the year 2025-26 Under Two Cover System. The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before 17.01.2026 up to 4.00 pm. For further details contact the above address during office hours or visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division,
Bengaluru Urban Dist, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/Shirdi Sai/4953/2025-26

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

ಲೋಕಿಕೆರೆ ರಸ್ತೆ, ದೂರದರ್ಶನ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಎದುರು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192–261485, 261825, 260016, 262203, 1800–425–2203
EmailID:ceo-zp-kada@nic.in Website:www.zpdavangere.kar.nic.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಜಿಪಂದಾ:ಅಭಿ(3)ಉಖಾಯೋ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/43982/2025 ದಿನಾಂಕ:09.01.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮಹಾತ್ಮಾಗಾಂಧಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯಂ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಖಾತರಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು 03 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ (ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂ. RDPR/2025-26/SE2879/CALL-4 DATE: 09.01.2026) ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿದವರು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ವೇಳಾ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ.08192–262203 ಅಥವಾ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಯೋಜನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ 88848 04177 ಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

Particulars:- (1) Start date for Uploading the Tender document in e-portal 09.01.2026 from 10.00 am Onwards **(2)** Pre-Bid Meeting Date, Time & Place 13.01.2026 at 16.00 Hr through Direct meet in ZP Officein office working hours or through phone call. **(3)** Last Date for receiving pre-bid queries Date 17.01.2026 Before 3.00 PM **(4)** Last Date for submission of proposals in e-portal 19.01.2026 upto 16:00Hr **(5)** Opening of Technical Bids in the e-portal 21.01.2026 @ 16.00 Hr **(6)** Opening of Financial Bids of Technically qualified Bidders 22.01.2026 @ 11.00 Hr If Possible

DIPR/DVG/KSMCA/640/2025-26

ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

Govt. of Karnataka
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests Cauvery Wildlife Division, Kollegal

E-Mail: dcfcauverywl@gmail.com Office: 08224-253027

No. A2/BUD/Tender/CR-20/2025- 26 Dated: 08.01.2026

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

During the year 2025-26 tender has been called through kppp Portal to taken up the rail's transportation and Construction of Railway Barricade in Halagur, Sangama and Muggur Wildlife Range of Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary. Interested registered contractors can participate in the tender through kppp Portal **(http://kppp.karnataka. gov. in).** for further details can contact the under signed office in the office hours.

Deputy Conservator of Forests,
Cauvery Wildlife Division
Kollegal

NO: DIPR: CHANAGAR; 623: 2025-26

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, SEDAM – 585 222
E-mail : apmcsedam123@gmail.com Office Ph : 08441-276030

No.AMD/APMC/SDM/DEV/ 547 / 2025-26 Date: 09-01-2026

:: BRIEF E-TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

APMC, Sedam hereby invites Tender for the following Development works Sanctioned under 2025-26 Annual Action Plan, from eligible e-portal registered PWD contractors in two cover system as per Karnataka Transparency Act 2000 through e-procurement portal. The contractors have to submit all tender related documents, itemized rates etc. by uploading through **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** website in standard documents KW-3. (With latest amendments)

1) Publication of Tender Notification: **12-01-2026 to 30-01-2026 up to 4.00 PM**, 2) Pre-Bid & Tender Query Meeting: **19-01-2026 at 4.00 PM**, 3) Last date submission of Tender: **30-01-2026 at 4.00 PM**, 4) Opening of Technical Bid: **02-02-2026 at 11.00 PM (On Or Before)**, 5) Opening of Financial Bid: **18-02-2026 at 4.00 PM (On Or Before)**, 6) Place of opening of E-Tender bid: **APMC, Sedam.**

1) Name of work : Construction of CC road and Drainage from plot no 01 to 03 and 59, 132 adjacent to the road and plot no 59 to 6(E) in the main market yard sedam, 2) Approximate value of work (Rs.) : **Rs. 64,44,405.00**, 3) EMD Amount (in Rs.2%): Rs.1,28,888.00, 4) Period of completion : 165 Days (Excluding monsoon), 5) Tender Fee : As per Kppp portal

Any other information required can be obtained from the office of the Secretary, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Sedam-585222 during working days and hours or through website **http:// http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Secretary,
A.P.M.C, Sedam.

Sd/- Administrator,
A.P.M.C, Sedam.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/956/KSMC&A/2025-26

QUICK READ

Punjab government to provide better job opportunities

Chandigarh

In a bid to provide better job opportunities to the people of the state, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is pushing for stronger and broader engagement with developed nations across the world, including Japan, the USA, Germany, the UK, the UAE, Switzerland, France, and Spain. The Punjab government is extending a red carpet welcome to companies from these countries to explore new possibilities emerging in the state. The Punjab government has identified core pillars of collaboration; higher education, textiles, engineering, automotive components, mobility, electronics, food processing, and renewable energy. The government has also highlighted new investment focus areas.

12 earthquakes hit Gujarat's Rajkot in 24 hours

Rajkot

At least 12 tremors of magnitude ranging from 2.6 to 3.8 jolted Gujarat's Saurashtra region between Thursday night and Friday afternoon, triggering panic among residents of three talukas in Rajkot district, with many of them seeking refuge in open fields as a precautionary measure.

Rajkot Collector Om Prakash, however, said 21 tremors have been recorded in Upleta, Dhoraji and Jetpur talukas in the district, with their magnitudes ranging from 1.4 to 3.8. No loss of life or damage has been reported so far, officials said.The first tremor, which was of 3.3 magnitude, was recorded at 8.43 pm Thursday, with its epicentre near Upleta town, an official said.

NHAI Launches Paid National Internship Programme to Offer Hands-on Exposure

India launches a internship offering students paid, hands-on exposure across highway projects

MUMBAI

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), in collaboration with the Department of Higher Education, has announced the launch of the 'NHAI Internship Programme', a significant initiative aimed at nurturing young talent by providing real-world exposure within India's vast national highway development ecosystem. The programme is positioned as a gateway for aspiring professionals to understand the complexities of infrastructure development through direct on-ground experience.

As part of this initiative, NHAI has introduced a dedicated Internship Portal that will serve as an integrated digital platform for managing and offering internship opportunities across more than 150 major National Highway projects spread throughout the country.

Each project will host up to four interns, creating opportunities for nearly 600 students in the initial phase. These interns will be selected from premier institutions, including the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs), and institutes affiliated with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), according to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

The Internship Portal offers flexible programme durations of one month, two months, and six months, catering to diverse academic calendars and industry requirements. All selected interns will receive a stipend of Rs 20,000 per month, intended to support learning, mobility, and professional development during the internship period. Officials said the financial support is designed to ensure inclusivity and encourage participation from students across regions.

The programme aims to provide deep insights into how national highways are planned, engineered, executed, and managed on the ground. While civil engineering students will form the core group of interns, the initiative also opens doors for students from Information Technology, Electronics, and Electrical Engineering backgrounds. These students will gain exposure to advanced and emerging areas such as Advanced Traffic Management Systems and Electronic Toll Collection, reflecting the growing role of technology in highway operations. The response to the initiative has been encouraging.

Court issues notice to police in Turkman Gate stone-pelting case

NEW DELHI

The Tis Hazari Court on Friday issued a notice to the Delhi Police in connection with the bail applications filed by five accused in the Faiz-e-Ilahi Mosque stone-pelting case. The court has fixed January 13 as the next date of hearing in the matter. The accused, Mohammad Arib, Kaif, Kashif, Adnan, and Sameer have approached the Tis Hazari Court seeking bail.

The court also issued a notice to the jail superintendent, directing him to submit the medical records and CCTV footage related to all five accused before the next hearing. During the proceedings, the defence counsel alleged that the accused were assaulted inside the jail premises. Advocate Atul Srivastava has been appointed as the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) in the Faiz-e-Ilahi Mosque stone-pelting case and is representing the Delhi Police in the matter.

Earlier in the day, Delhi Police arrested one more accused in connection with the violence that erupted during the demolition drive near the Faiz-e-Ilahi Mosque in the Turkman Gate area of the national capital.

With this latest arrest, the total number of people apprehended in the case has risen to 12.

According to Delhi Police, the accused has been identified as Mohammad Imran, also known as Raju, aged 36.

Delhi Police had stated that around 30 individuals involved in the violence had been identified.

Court Orders Framing of Charges Against Lalu Prasad Yadav

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court ordered charges against Lalu Prasad Yadav and family in the alleged railway land-for-job scam

A Delhi court on Friday ordered the framing of charges against Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav and several members of his family in connection with the alleged land-for-job scam linked to his tenure as Union Railway Minister. The order marks a significant development in the long-running Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into alleged corruption in railway recruitments.

Advocate Azaz Ahmed informed the court that the CBI court has found sufficient grounds to frame charges against Lalu Prasad Yadav, his daughter Misa Bharti, and his sons Tejashwi Yadav and Tej Pratap Yadav, along with family member Hema Yadav. The accused have been charged under Sections 420 (cheating), 120B (criminal conspiracy), and 13 of the Indian Penal Code. Formal charges are scheduled to be framed on January 29.

Special Judge Vishal Gogne, while orally pronouncing the substantive portion of the order, observed that Lalu Prasad Yadav allegedly used the Railway Ministry as his personal fiefdom to run a criminal enterprise. According to the court, public employment in the railways was allegedly used as a bargaining tool to acquire land parcels in the name of Yadav's family members, in alleged connivance with railway officials and close aides.

The judge said that the CBI's final report pointed to an overarching conspiracy on the touchstone of grave suspicion. Rejecting the pleas for discharge filed by the accused, the court termed them unwarranted, underlining that the former railway minister and others appeared to have operated as a criminal enterprise to usurp land.

The court also took note of what it described as an abuse of decision by certain railway officials, stating that the charge sheet clearly laid out the core elements of criminality. While charges were framed against 41 accused persons in the case, the court discharged 52 others, including some railway officials and alleged substitutes who did not part with their land.

Rajkot gears up for two-day Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference

GANDHINAGAR

The second edition of Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference (VGRC), is scheduled to be held at the Marwadi University in Rajkot on January 11 and 12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the two-day conference, focusing on Kutch and Saurashtra region, and the event will also see participation of many leading industrialists from across the country.

Preparations for the Vibrant Gujarat Summit are underway in full swing at the Marwari University campus. Naresh Jadeja, the venue coordinator and chief registrar of the University, told IANS, Gujarat government is hosting the VGRC on January 11 and 12. Six domes have been built by the government for exhibition in 35 sectors, spread over an area of 22,000 square metres.

A special dome has been built for the events that Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate at the VGRC. Nearly 4,000 industrialists from across Gujarat and the country are expected to take part.

Six to seven different domes have also been raised where stalls have been put up, showcasing a wide array of products.

Nearly three lakh visitors are expected to arrive here.

Naresh Jadeja also said, An inauguration dome with a seating capacity of 4,000 industrialists is being given final shape. Seminars on different subjects will be conducted at the 51 seminar halls.

As many as 800 students of the university are working as volunteer, coordinating on registration, guidance, guest arrival, etc. Around 22 international students from 52 countries will also participate along with delegates, he also added.

IMD predicts cold wave, intense fog to persist across north India

NEW DELHI

A severe spell of bone-chilling cold and dense fog is set to disrupt life across northern India on January 09, while a strengthening depression over the Bay of Bengal is expected to bring heavy rainfall to parts of southern India. Authorities have warned of major travel disruptions across the Indo Gangetic plains as visibility drops sharply and temperatures remain well below normal.

The India Meteorological Department has forecast dense to very dense fog during morning hours over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi. Similar conditions are likely across Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, with visibility expected to fall to near zero in several areas.

Devendra Tripathi, founder of Mausam Tak and a well known weather vlogger, said some easing of fog may be seen by Friday afternoon in eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, though skies are unlikely to clear completely.

The Sun will not be too bright because of these cloud layers... it will be a foggy Sun, he said.

Temperatures are expected to remain significantly below seasonal averages. Skymet reported that cities such as Jaipur and Delhi have already logged their lowest temperatures of the month, with no immediate relief forecast. Cold wave conditions are likely to persist in isolated parts of Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana.

Weather experts said Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have broken all time January low temperature records, with several locations recording temperatures 6 to 10 degrees Celsius below normal. Gwalior registered its lowest ever January maximum temperature at 10.4 degrees Celsius. In contrast, southern India is preparing for heavy rainfall as a deep depression over the southwest Bay of Bengal moves west-northwest. The system is expected to cross the Sri Lankan coast by the evening of January 09.

Delhi, Haryana Sikh bodies file complaints against Atishi

CHANDIGARH

The Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee and the Haryana Gurdwara Management Committee have filed complaints against former Delhi chief minister Atishi over remarks allegedly made against Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur, triggering a political row and disruption in the Delhi Assembly. The matter has now escalated to a forensic examination of a controversial video, while the BJP has demanded strict action against the Leader of Opposition. The Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee has lodged a police complaint against Atishi, while the Haryana Gurdwara Management Committee has approached the Shiromani Akal Takht in Amritsar seeking action against her.

In a letter to the Delhi Police Commissioner, the DSGMC said that in 2025, programmes commemorating the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib were organised across the country with reverence and enthusiasm. One such programme was organised by the Delhi government, followed by a special discussion under Rule 270 in the Delhi Assembly on January 06, 2026.

The DSGMC alleged that during this discussion, Atishi, the Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, made objectionable and condemnable remarks about the ninth Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib, which caused widespread anger in the Sikh community. The committee demanded that a case be registered against her. Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta ordered a forensic examination of a video purportedly showing Atishi insulting Guru Tegh Bahadur. The BJP alleged that Atishi made insensitive remarks after a special discussion linked to a programme organised by the Delhi government to mark the Guru's 350th martyrdom anniversary in November last year.

Gupta said the video would be sent for forensic analysis as both the ruling BJP and opposition Aam Aadmi Party members had demanded it. He directed that the forensic report be submitted within 15 days.

At least 8 people died after a private bus skidded off a mountain road

Eight Killed as Private Bus Plunges into Gorge

SHIMLA

At least eight people were killed and several others injured after a private bus plunged into a deep gorge in the Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh on Friday, triggering a major rescue operation in the hilly region. The tragic accident occurred near the Haripurdhar area, a remote and mountainous stretch known for its narrow roads and sharp curves.

According to Sirmaur Superintendent of Police Nishchint Singh Negi, the bus was travelling from Kupvi to Shimla when it veered off the road and fell into a gorge. Eight deaths have been reported so far in the mishap, the SP said, adding that several passengers sustained injuries of varying severity. The exact number of injured is yet to be officially confirmed as rescue operations are still underway.

Police officials said that the accident took place on a mountainous road, where visibility and road conditions can be challenging, especially during sudden weather changes. Preliminary inputs suggest that the bus lost control before plunging into the gorge, though the exact cause of the accident will be ascertained after a detailed investigation.

Soon after the incident, local residents rushed to the spot and informed authorities. Police teams, along with rescue personnel and ambulances, were immediately dispatched to the accident site. Rescue workers faced considerable difficulty in reaching the victims due to the steep terrain and depth of the gorge. Ropes and other specialised equipment were pressed into service to retrieve the injured and bodies from the ravine.

SP Nishchint Singh Negi said he was personally heading to the accident site to supervise rescue and relief operations. Police and rescue teams have been rushed to the spot, and efforts are being made to ensure that the injured are shifted to nearby hospitals at the earliest, he said. Some of the injured were reportedly taken to local health centres, while those critically wounded were referred to hospitals in larger towns.

Officials said that the district administration has been alerted, and additional medical staff have been kept on standby.

CPRI BRIBERY BUST

CBI arrests CPRI Joint Director in ₹9.5L bribery case

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday arrested Rajaram Mohanrao Chennu, Joint Director of the Central Power Research Institute (CPRI), Bengaluru, in connection with an alleged bribery case involving ₹9.5 lakh. The arrest followed a trap laid by the agency after registering a First Information Report (FIR), officials said.

According to the CBI, Chennu was caught red-handed while allegedly accepting the bribe amount at Bengaluru on January 9, 2026. An executive of a private firm was also apprehended during the operation. The bribe was allegedly paid in exchange for issuing favourable test reports for electrical equipment manufactured by the Sudhir Group of Companies.

During subsequent searches conducted at Chennu's residence and other premises, the CBI recovered a massive haul of unaccounted cash. Officials

said cash worth over ₹3.59 crore was seized, along with foreign currency amounting to more than ₹4 lakh. The recovered foreign currencies reportedly included US dollars, Hong Kong dollars, Singapore dollars, Indonesian rupiah, Malaysian ringgit, euros, Chinese yuan (Renminbi), Swedish krona and UAE dirham.

The CBI also arrested Atul Khanna, a director of the Sudhir Group of Companies, for his alleged role in the bribery transaction. Investigators believe the accused company sought favourable certification and test reports from CPRI, a premier national laboratory under the Ministry of Power, to benefit its business operations.

In an official statement, a CBI spokesperson said that the total recovery so far, including foreign currency, stands at approximately ₹3.76 crore. The agency added that searches were still ongoing and further recoveries could not be ruled out.

The case has raised serious concerns over alleged corruption within key technical institutions responsible for certifying critical electrical equipment used across the country.

QUICK READ

Manipur Governor recalls state's suffering

Imphal

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Friday said that while the state's history is replete with glory, it also witnessed immense suffering during the Burmese occupation from 1819 to 1826, a dark period remembered as Chahi Taret Khuntakpa. The Governor led the observance of the 192nd death anniversary of Maharaja Gambhir Singh at the Samadhi of the Maharaj at Langthabal (Canchipur) on Friday. Bhalla, along with other dignitaries, offered floral tributes to the portrait of Maharaja Gambhir Singh. A guard of honour, gun salute and the sounding of the Last Post were accorded by a contingent of the Manipur Rifles.

Op Devil Hunt failed to arrest escaped criminals

New Delhi

Operation 'Devil Hunt' in Bangladesh has become one of the most sweeping security crackdowns in recent years, with thousands arrested across Dhaka and other districts, yet failing to address the crux of rising violence before the February 12 election, according to reports. While authorities claim the operation is vital to restoring law and order ahead of national elections, ordinary citizens and rights groups have voiced deep concerns about continued killings, unrecovered weapons, and escaped convicts still at large. Despite the launch of Operation Devil Hunt, continued killings and law enforcement's failure to arrest escaped criminals and recover looted.

Naveen Patnaik Slams Odisha Govt Over PUC Enforcement

Opposition leader Naveen Patnaik accused the Odisha government of chaotic PUC enforcement, saying poor planning caused public hardship

BHUBANESWAR

Leader of the Opposition and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik on Friday launched a sharp attack on the Odisha government, accusing it of gross mismanagement in implementing the Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate enforcement and creating widespread inconvenience for the public.

Taking to social media platform X, the former Chief Minister alleged that the BJP-led state government mishandled the PUC certification process through repeated policy reversals and a lack of preparedness. Patnaik said the government's approach reflected gross mismanagement and poor administrative foresight, ultimately leading to chaos across the state.

Patnaik specifically targeted the government's sudden announcement of the No PUC, No Fuel rule, which was initially scheduled to come into force from January 1, 2026. According to him, the abrupt decision triggered massive queues at PUC testing centres, as vehicle owners rushed to comply with the new requirement without sufficient time or infrastructure support. He claimed that citizens were left confused and distressed due to inadequate arrangements on the ground.

The BJP government failed to prepare adequately, with no expansion of testing infrastructure, no advance planning, and no awareness campaigns on the required scale, Patnaik said. He added that the Transport Department did not anticipate the surge in demand for PUC certificates and failed to ensure sufficient testing facilities to handle the volume of vehicles across urban and rural areas.

The BJD leader further alleged that mounting public outrage forced the government into a series of reversals. He pointed out that the enforcement deadline was first deferred from January 1 to February 1, then pushed further to March 31. Most recently, the government announced a blanket relaxation, including a decision not to impose fines until April 1 and the suspension of electronic detection of PUC compliance at toll gates.

'Officers responsible for deteriorating law and order'

CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said on Friday that the state government has adopted a strict stance on the law and order and made it clear that negligence in controlling crime would not be tolerated at any level. The Chief Minister added that in areas where crime is not brought under effective control, accountability of the officers concerned will be fixed and, if required, stringent action such as demotion will also be taken against them.

He told the media after the pre-Budget consultation meeting that he has said earlier as well that the police is a strong and capable force. However, if crime or the illegal drug trade is increasing in any area, the Superintendents of Police and Station House Officers concerned will have to seriously introspect. Holding periodic review meetings, reaching the root causes of problems, and finding concrete solutions are the responsibility of officers concerned.

He said that when common citizens, especially women, complain about crime or illegal activities in an area, it is the duty of the police and the administration to take immediate and effective action.

The Chief Minister reiterated that maintaining law and order is the state government's top priority and no laxity of any kind will be tolerated in this regard.

Chief Minister Saini directed officers to intensify the campaign against crime and drugs so that people can be provided a safe environment and good governance is ensured in the state.

Amit Shah Chairs J&K Security Review

SRINAGAR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday chaired a high-level security review meeting on Jammu and Kashmir, instructing officials that operations against terror infrastructure and terror financing networks must continue in mission mode. The meeting focused on sustaining recent security gains and ensuring that terrorism is completely eradicated from the Union Territory. The review meeting was attended by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the Union Home Secretary, the Director of the Intelligence Bureau, the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police of Jammu and Kashmir, along with heads of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and other senior officials.

During the deliberations, Shah said the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi was committed to establishing lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir by completely eliminating terrorism. He asserted that the Centre's firm and uncompromising approach towards terrorism had significantly weakened terror networks operating in the region. The Home Minister credited the improved security situation to the coordinated and dedicated efforts of the armed forces, intelligence agencies, and local police.

Shah urged all security forces to remain vigilant and work in close coordination to safeguard the progress achieved in recent years. He stressed that seamless cooperation among various agencies was crucial to prevent any resurgence of violence and to ensure that development and normalcy continue uninterrupted in the Union Territory.

Over 500 holy men take part in Damru Rally

GIR SOMNATH

More than 500 sadhus and sants from across the country participated in a grand 'Damru Rally' in Gujarat's district Somnath on Friday, with the rhythmic beats of the sacred drums resonating throughout the region. The participating sants described the event as a 'Mini Kumbh Mela,' reflecting the scale and spiritual fervour of the gathering. The rally was held ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Somnath for the Somnath Swabhiman Parv. Even before the Prime Minister's arrival, Somnath was enveloped in an atmosphere of celebration, devotion, and excitement. Devotees and locals witnessed scenes that made it feel as though Mount Kailash itself had descended upon the holy town.

Union Min Scindia reiterates commitment to farmers

SHIVPURI

Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya Scindia, reiterated on Friday the importance of two memoranda of understanding (MoUs) that had been signed earlier on January 7 with Union Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Addressing a public gathering in Badarwas (Shivpuri), he reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring real-time monitoring of fertilisers so that farmers receive transparent and timely supplies.

He also emphasised the second MoU, which focuses on the economic empowerment of rural women through training provided by India Post Payments Bank.

Under this initiative, women will take on the responsibility of opening accounts in villages, enabling them to earn between Rs 15,000 and Rs 30,000 per month and thereby strengthening financial inclusion at the grassroots level.

On Friday, he inaugurated a modernised sub-post office in Badarwas, describing the historic facility, located near an ancient temple, as fully transformed with contemporary amenities to serve the public.

He noted that this development is part of the postal modernisation campaign launched in 2009, under which 50 post offices across the region have already been upgraded.

Earlier in the day, he also dedicated new state-of-the-art sub-post offices in Kolaras and Jagatpura in Shivpuri district. He emphasised that these upgraded facilities will act as windows to the world, delivering accessible, timely, and reliable postal services equipped with world-class infrastructure.

India Slams Pakistan Over Claims on Muslim Heritage

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday strongly rebutted Pakistan's allegations that efforts were being made to erase Muslim heritage in India, calling such claims absurd and hypocritical. Addressing a weekly media briefing in New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Pakistan should introspect on the situation of minorities within its own borders before commenting on India.

Responding to questions on remarks made by Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi regarding a recent demolition drive in Delhi, Jaiswal said that Islamabad lacked credibility on the issue. I need not elaborate or tell you what is the situation of minorities in that country, and those people who make such comments should first look at their record before commenting on others, he stated.

The Pakistani remarks followed a demolition drive conducted near the Faiz-e-Elahi Mosque in the Turkman Gate area of the national capital. According to officials of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the action was undertaken to remove illegal encroachments from land adjoining the mosque and surrounding areas. The civic body clarified that the drive was carried out strictly in compliance with directions issued by the Delhi High Court, and was not targeted at any religious structure.

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179

Regd Office: IV/470A (OLD) W/638A (NEW) Manappuram House Valapad Thrissur, Kerala 680567
Corp Office: Manappuram Home Finance Limited, Third Floor, Unit No. 301 to 315, A Wing, 'Kanakia Wall Street', Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400093, Maharashtra. **Phone No.:** 022-66211000, **Website:** www.manappuramhomefin.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of **Manappuram Home Finance Ltd ("MAHOFIN")** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest *[Act], 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice** calling upon the borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and Interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic** possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said *[Act] read with rule 9 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Manappuram Home Finance Ltd as mentioned below for each of the respective properties:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower and Co-borrower / Loan account number/ Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Date of Demand Notice sent & Outstanding Amount	Date of Possession
1	Bhagya M, Shivu Mahadeva, **/MA90COLONS000005006004/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No. 381/1, P.I.D. No. 152200416045001123, Situated At Ayrahalli Grama, Devalapura Gramapanchayat, Mysore Block, Mysore (D) Karnataka-571311. Measuring: East To West: 15.24 Meter & North To South: 9.144 Meter. East-Property of K.E. Subramani, West-Road, South-Remaining Portion of Same Property, North-Property of Narayani	13-10-2025 & Rs.258041/-	07-01-2026
2	Haseena Banu, Sameer Baig, Azeem Baig, **/MLAP0051000104/** Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Property No. 43, E-Property No. 152400101300100045, Survey No. 21, Measuring Total 111.48 Sq. Meter, Situated At Gowdarahalli Village, Veerapura Village Panchayath, Bhadravathi Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka - 577301. East-Property of Amazad Khan, West-Property of Ayesha Bhi, South-Panchayath Road, North-Survey Number Land	13-10-2025 & Rs.335061/-	07-01-2026
3	Mahadevi Kolakar, Rajendra Kolakar, **/MLAP0098038645/** Belgaum	Residential Property Bearing No. G.P. No. 120/1, Measuring: East To West: 17 Feet And North To South: 40 Feet, Total Measuring: 680 Sq. Ft. [17X40=680), Situated At Gajapati Village, Badas K.H. Grama Panchayat, Tal: Dist: Belagavi, Karnataka - 591131. East-Property of Chandravva Sadashiv Kolakar, West-Property of Sharavva Durgappa Kolakar, South-Government Road., North-Property of Basappa Hanamant Pujer	13-10-2025 & Rs.336340/-	07-01-2026
4	Netharavathi P, Prasanna S, **/MLAP0090006844/** Vivekananda Circle	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Hunasavadi Gramapanchayathi Property No. 77/88/1/111/58/2 And As Per Form No. 09&11 A Unique No. 152200201411241133 Situated At Nagamangala Village, Chilkunda Gramapanchayathi Hangodu Hobli Hunsur Taluk, Karnataka - 571105 Measuring East To West: 12.19+9.75/2 Meters And North To South: 13.10+16.15/2 Meters. East-Road, West-Gully And House Of Sannathammegowda, South-Road, North-Road	13-10-2025 & Rs.356753/-	07-01-2026
5	Sathisharao A, Annajirao G, Gowra Bayi, Nagendra Rao, **/MO90LALONS000005004251/** Mysore	Property No.323/301, Unique No.152200201 702600584, Honnikuppe Colony Village, Uddur/ Kaval Grama Panchayathi Hunsur Talluk Mysore, Mysore-571189,Karnatakaall That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing Uddur Kaval Gramapanchayathi Khatha No. 301/323 And As Per Form No. 11 B Unique No. 152200201702600584 Situated At Honnikuppe Kaval Village, Hunasuru Taluk, Within The Jurisdiction of Uddur Kaval Gramapanchayathi, Measuring East To West 17.068 Meters And North To South: 12.192 Meters,. East-Road, West-Hunasuru-Dharmapura Main Road, South-House Of Nataraju, North-Site Of Gowribayamma	13-10-2025 & Rs.369519/-	07-01-2026
6	Yallavva Basappa Naik, Parshuram Basappa Naik, Radha Prashuram Naik, **/MHL00980009672/** Belgaum	Residential Property Bearing Swattin No:150400704100100589 At Gp No:35/2 Measuring Total 63.58 Sq.mtrs I.e, Towards East To West 2.93 Mtrs,And Towards North To South: 21.70 Mtrs. Situated At Nandgad, Within The Local Limits of Gram Panchayat Nandgad, And With In The Local Jurisdiction of Sub Registrar K Hanapur Tal: Khanapur & Dist Belagavi Pin: 591120, Karnataka. East-Property of Yallappa Hanmantappa Honnapur, West-Property of Hanmant Gangappa Naik, South-Property Drainage, North-Road	13-10-2025 & Rs.409089/-	07-01-2026
7	Roopa D, Adharsh S, **/MA90COLONS000005005683/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Bearing No. 4238/A, L 55/A Situated At 2" Main, 5" Cross, Gandhi Nagara, Laskar Mohalla, Mysuru, Measuring East To West 55 Feet And North To South: 10 Feet Pin 570007, Karnataka. East-Conservancy, West-Road, South-House of Sundramma, North-House of S. Shanthappa	13-10-2025 & Rs.434155/-	07-01-2026
8	Shivakumar N, Nagaraju M, Bharath N, **/MO90LALONS000005002061/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing Property No. 29- 504-120, Situated At Ward No. 10, Behind Nayaka's Dodda Street, 4T Main Road, Kollegala, Chamarajanagara (D). Measuring: East To West: 9.00 Meter & North To South: 7.50 Meterpin 571440, Karnataka. East-Road, West-Site No.87, South-Site No. 95, North-Site No. 93	13-10-2025 & Rs.469911/-	07-01-2026
9	Jagadeesh Kumar S, Sindhuja G C, Sundramma S, **/MO90LALONS000005002308/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing Property No. 314,Property I.d. No. 150800301200101367, Situated At Sathegala Grama, Sathegala Gramapanchayat, Kollegala Tauk, Chamarajanagara (D).Measuring: East To West: 6.858 Meter & North To South: 6.705 Meter.pin 571440,Karnataka. East-House of Jayaramegowda, West-Property of S. Shivamallegowda, South-Main Road, North-Property of S. Shivamallegowda	13-10-2025 & Rs.470577/-	07-01-2026
10	Shivanand Basappa Sunkad, Renuka Shivanand Sunkad, Basappa Siddappa Kabbur, **/NHL00260008588/** Hubli	Residential 11B Property Bearing Vpc No.637, Property No.151700600400200939, Measuring East To West 10 Mtr And North To South 10 Mtr, Total Measuring 100 Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 45Sq Mtr, Situated At Tavaramellalli Village Within Tavaramellihalli Gram Panchayath,Tq: Savanur & Dist: Haveri Pin 581202 Karnataka. East-Property of Shantavva Basappa Sunkad, West-Govt. Road, South-Property of Sangappa Fakkirappa Sunkad, North-Property of Nirmala Mahantesh Sunkad	13-10-2025 & Rs.470931/-	07-01-2026
11	Shashikumar S, Shivaramegowda S, Sumithra D, **/NHL00910016715/** Hassan	All That Piece And Parcel of The Site And House Property Bearing No.151600503700520026, Gram Panchayath Demand No. 27/34 In Survey No.70/1, Situated At Neralakere Village, Akkanahalli Gram Panchayath, Channarayapattana Taluk And Hassan District An Measuring: East To West: 7.01 Meters And North To South: 12.19 Meters, Totally Measuring 85.45 Square Meters And Constructed Plinth Area 85.45 Square Meters Pin: 573131, Karnataka. East-Own And Adhaani Property, West-Own Property And Pwd Road, South-Own Property And Property Belongs To Sri. Lakshmanagowda, North-Own Property	13-10-2025 & Rs.476414/-	07-01-2026
12	C P Mahesha, Lakshmamma B, Puttaiah D, **/NHL00910016815/** Hassan	Survey No. 11/7A, Property No. 106, Unique No. 151600302700400025, Cholenahalli Village, Honnavahalli Grama Panchayath, Arakalagodu(T), Hassan(D) 573102, Govt School, Arkalgud, P.O. Honnavalli, Hassan, Karnataka, Pin: 573102, Measuring: East To West 9.144 Meters And North To South: 15.24 Meters, Totally 139.35 Square Meters And Constructed Plinth Area Measuring 139.35 Square Meters And The Entire Property. East-Own Property, West-Road, South-Property Belongs To Sri. Sathya, North-Road	13-10-2025 & Rs.377639/-	07-01-2026
13	Pramila, Shanmukha K S, **/MHL00910037049/** Hassan	Survey No. 19/2, Property No. 15, Unique No. 151600702500800076, Kotiganahosur (V), Nagaranahalli Gramapanchayath, Holenarasipura (T), Hassan (D) Measuring: East To West: 12.8016 Meters And North To South: 10.3632 Meters, Totally Measuring 132.66 Sq.mtrs, Plinth Area 132.66 Sq.mts, Near School, Hole Narsipur, P.O. Nagarahalli, Hassan, Karnataka, Pin: 573211. East-Own Property, West-Road, South-Road, North-Own Property	13-10-2025 & Rs.397836/-	07-01-2026
14	Vishalakshi J, Jagadish V, Ajitha V, Venkatesh G, Vasanthamma V, **/MHL00510015295/** Shimoga	All That Part And Parcel of The Property Bearing Rdpr Khata No.152400404301020013, As Per Gram Panchayat Record Property No.56 Measuring Total 231.8840 Sq Meter Including Measuring 111.11 Sq Meter House Property Situated At Taralagatta Camp, Taralagatta Gram Panchayat. Shikaripura Taluk And Shivamogga District, Karnataka - 577214. East-Pwdroad, West-Survey No Land, South-Survey No Land, North-Survey No Land	07-10-2025 & Rs.654348/-	07-01-2026
15	Rathamma K, Prashanth V K, Krishna Raju V R, Nirupama B, **/MLAP0051005123/** Shimoga	All That The Piece Or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There on Being Bearing Site/ Property No. 52, E-Property No. 152400501000300046, Measuring Total 222.96 Sq. Meter, Including 133.78 Sq. Meter House, Situated At Buklapura Village, B. Beeranahallil Village Panchayath, Shivamogga Taluk And District,Karnataka - 577227. East-Road, West-Property of Krishna Raju, South-Property of R Manjunatha, North-Property of Dhanaraju	10-10-2025 & Rs.250527/-	07-01-2026
16	Manjunatha A, Annaiah Kunnamalegowda, Prathibha H R, Mohankumar K P, **/MO90LALONS000005005906/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No. 304/5/1, P.I.D. No. 152200419117020442, Situated At Kadakola Grama, Kadakola Gramapanchayat, Mysore Block, Mysore (D), Karnataka - 571311 Measuring: East To West: 8.8392 Meter & North To South: 16.1544 Meter. East-Property of Rachamma & Kempamma, West-House of Kempamma., South-Property of Marigowda, North-Road	13-10-2025 & Rs.578100/-	07-01-2026
17	Basavaraju R, Pavithra P, Chandramma B, **/MO90LALONS000005003752/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of Property Bearing No. 1586/2 New No. M-11, Situated At 1st Cross, Soppinakeri, Mandi Mohalla, Mysuru, Measuring East To West 14 Feet And North To South: 14 Feet, Karnataka - 570001. East-House of A. Krishnamurthy, West-House of Eashwarachar, South-House of A. Krishnamurthy, North-Road	13-10-2025 & Rs.591167/-	07-01-2026
18	Anilkumar H M, Sumathi H M, Sreekantha B V, **/MO90LALONS000005002529/** Mysore	All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing Property No. 52/52, Property I.D. No. 152100404700500140, Situated At Hanchahalli Grama, B. Hosur Gramapanchayat, Mandya Taluk, Mandya (D), Karnataka - 571446. Measuring: East To West: 15.3924 Meter & North To South: 13.411200000000001 Meter. East-Galli And Property of H.A. Nagaraju, West-Road, South-Own Property And Road, North-Property of H.A. Srikantaiah	13-10-2025 & Rs.948080/-	07-01-2026
19	Tahir B, Jabeena Banu, Nayaz Pasha, **/MO90LALONS000005001121/** Mysore	RB All That Piece And Parcel of The Property Bearing # 425/451, Property. D. No. 152200202910100670, Hanagodu Grama, Hanagodu Gramapanchayat, Hunsur Taluk, Mysore (D), East To West: 13.10 Meter & North To South: 10.97 Meter, Pin: 571105, Karnataka. East-Road, West-Property of Jaheda Begum., South-Property of Akbar., North-Road.	13-10-2025 & Rs.627197/-	07-01-2026
20	Shiva Kumar L, Lalitha E, Aluvelamma K, Lingaraju L, **/NLAP0093012934/** Tumkur	Panchayath Khatha No 305 P.I.D. No. 152500501600820062, Measuring East To West: 9.4488 Mtrs And North To South: 9.7536 Mtrs, Katagondanahalli Neralekere Gramapanchayithimadhugiri Taluk Tumkur Distic-572132.Main Road, Tumkur, P.O. Neralekere, Tumkur, Karnataka, Pin: 572132. East-House Belongs To Kariyanna, West-Hiduvali Land Belongs To Eranna, South-Government Road, North-Giduvali Land Belongs To Eranna	13-10-2025 & Rs.984733/-	07-01-2026
21	Shivappa Fakkirappa Ogganavar, Ratnavva Phakkirappa Vagganavar, Fakkirappa Basappa Vagganavar, Mahantesh Kareppa Ratageri, **/NHL00260007957/** Hubli	Property Is In Name of Co-Applicant(1) Mrs.ratnawa P Vagganavar Property No:151700600200420196 G.P. No: 90/13/1001 At-Chillur Badni,Chillur Badnii Gram Panchayati Tq:savanur And Dist: Haveri., Beeralingeshwar Temple Savanur Haveri Karnataka Pin: 81118 P.O. Savanur Residential 11B Property Bearing Vpc No. 90/13/1001, Property No. 151700600200420196, Measuring East To West 13Mtr And North To South 9 Mtr, Total 117Sq Mtr In Rs No. 90/*/13 Situated At Chillurabadni, Tq: Savanur & Dist: Haveri . East-Road, West-Property of Husainsab Nadaf, South-Property Of Gouravva Shankrappa Vagganavar, North: Property of Devappa Basappa Vagganavar	13-10-2025 & Rs.893158/-	07-01-2026
22	Shabinabanu, Samiulla, **/MLAP0051007229/** Shimoga	All That Part And Parcel of The Property Bearing Rdpr Khata No.152400403700120512, As Per Gram Panchayat Record Property No.259/2 Measuring East To West 3.81 Sq Meter Arid North To South 18.288 Sq Meter In Total 69.68 Sq Meter Including Measuring 34.84 Sq; Meter House Property Situated At Mattikote,Mattikote Gram Panchayat. Shikaripura Taluk And Shivamogga District, Karnataka, Pin: 577427. East-Property Belong Rasinabi W/O Dastiagisab, West-Property Belongs T) Siddarima W/O Chandrappa, South-Panchayat Road Ali Eal, North-Holdingland	13-10-2025 & Rs.196137/-	07-01-2026
23	Gowramma R, Ramappa G, **/MLAP0051005438/** Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There on Being Bearing Site/ Property No. 78/26, E-Property No. 152400403800500112, Measuring East-West 9.144 X North-South 15.24 Meter, Total 139.35 Sq. Meter, Including 31.59 Sq. Meter Building, Situated At Kolagi Thanda Village, Chikkamagadi Village Panchayath, Shikaripura Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka, Pin: 577433. East-Property Of Dasappa S/O Thimmappa, West-Property of Chennamma W/O Ramappa, South-Property Of Nagamma W/O Nirvanappa, North-Road	13-10-2025 & Rs.216449/-	07-01-2026

Date: 10th January 2026 | Place: KARNATAKA **Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923KL2010PLC039179

Regd Office: IV/470A (OLD) W/638A (NEW) Manappuram House Valapad Thrissur, Kerala 680567
Corp Office: Manappuram Home Finance Limited, Third Floor, Unit No. 301 to 315, A Wing, 'Kanakia Wall Street', Andheri-Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400093, Maharashtra.
Phone No.: 022-66211000, **Website:** www.manappuramhomefin.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of Manappuram Home Finance Ltd., having our registered office at IV/470A (old) w/638A (new), Manappuram House, Valapad, Thrissur, Kerala-680567 and branches at various places in India (hereinafter referred to as "MAHOFIN") is a Company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and a Financial Institution within the meaning of sub-clause (iv) of clause (m) of sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 (hereinafter referred so as the Act) read with Notification No. S.O. 3466 (E) dated 18th December, 2015 issued by the Govt. of India, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi, inter alia carrying on business of advancing loans for construction and / or purchase of dwelling units and whereas the Borrower / Co-Borrowers as mentioned in Column No. 2 of the below mentioned chart obtained loan from MAHOFIN and whereas MAHOFN being the secured creditor under the SARFAESI Act, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 2 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers as mentioned herein below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with further interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served upon some of them for various reasons. That in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being informed by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name Of The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/Lan/Branch	Description Of Secured Asset In Respect Of Which Interest Has Been Created	Npa Date	Date Of Notice Sent & Outstanding Amount
1	Chikkaveeraiah L H, Shwetha R, Cheluvaraju L, **/NHL00920008226/** Vinayanagar Ramnagara	Item No. 1: All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No.63,P.I.D.No.152900401901200131 Lakshmipura Village And Grama Panchayath, Ramanagara Talluk And District, Admeasuring East To West: 17.0688 Mtr And North To South: 10.2108 Mtr, Item No. 2: All That Piece And Parcel of The Property No. 63/2 63/3 P.I.D. No. 152900401901200056 Lakshmipura Village And Grama Panchayath, Ramanagara Talluk And District, Admeasuring East To West: 16.4592 Mtr And North To South: 3.9624 Mtr, Karnataka, Pin: 561201. East-Item No. 1: Sompalu & House of Chikkaveeraiah/ Item No. 2: Magadi Ramanagara Road, West-Item No. 1: House of Mr. Venkataramanappa/ Item No. 2: House of Krishnappa, South-Item No. 1: Houe of Honnaiah/ Item No. 2: Govt. Honi, North-Item No. 1: Sompalu & House of Krishnappa/ Item No. 2: Sompalu & House of Badraiah	18-12-2025	22-12-2025 & Rs.737723/-
2	Sharadamma R, Sachina A S, Suresha R, **/MHL00510021397/** Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Property No. 254, E-Property No. 152400100800220095, Total 250.84 Sq. Meter, Including 250.84 Sq. Meter House, Situated At Adrihalli Village, Sydarakallahalli Village Panchayath, Bhadravathi Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka, Pin: 577243. East-Vacant Site, West-Vacant Site, South-Land, North-Road	19-12-2025	22-12-2025 & Rs.499050/-
3	Rangashamaiah R, Malleshaiah E, Padma M, **/NHL00930022550/** Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The House Bearing Katha No.173/205 And E-Katha No.152500301801520007, Measuring East To West: 12.192 Meters And North To South: 10.66800000000001 Meters, Situated At Singalekapura Village, Holavanahalli Hobli, Koratagere Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka, Pin: 572129. East-Road, West-Own Property, South-Road, North-House of Seenappa	19-12-2025	22-12-2025 & Rs.751516/-
4	Susheela Bai, Raja Nayka, **/MHL00510030353/** Shimoga	All That Part And Parcel of The Property Bearing RDPR Katha No.150900205000400202, As Per Gram Panchayat Record Property No. 200 Measuring In Total 71.54 Sq. Meter Inbuilt Area House Property Situated At Sadarahalli, Y. Mallapura Gram Panchayat, Kaduru Taluk And Chikkamagaluru District., Karnataka, Pin: 577548. East-Rajibai, West-Erabhovi, South-Road, North-Road	19-12-2025	22-12-2025 & Rs.267988/-
5	Rukhmini S, Ananda B S, **/MHL00900033713/** Vivekananda Circle	Property No.64/53, P.I.D.No.152100101900300072, Basavanahalli Village, Alambadikavalu Gramapanchayat, Krishnarajapete Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka, Pin: 571605 Total Measuring Site 57.69 Square Meters. East-Galli & Property of Chaluvaraju, West-Galli & House of Br Chaluvaiah, South-Own Remaining Property, North-Road	19-12-2025	22-12-2025 & Rs.239130/-
6	Nethravathi, Kumar Chari, Shashikumar K A, **/MLAP0051038441/** Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Property No. 14/1, E-Property No. 152400502600120295, Measuring Total 97.48 Sq. Meter, Situated At Abbalagere Village, Abbalagere Village Panchayath, Shivamogga Taluk, Shivamogga District, Karnataka, Pin: 577225. East-Remaining Share Property of 1st Party, West-Property of Hs Ram Kumara, South-Property of Hs Ram Kumara, North-Road	19-12-2025	22-12-2025 & Rs.506878/-
7	Shruthi N, Girisha M, Madivalappa, Honnamma, Harisha M, **/MLAP0051038701/** Shimoga	All That The Piece or Parcel of Site Along With Structure Standing There On Being Bearing Site/Property No. 85, E-Property No. 152400501000200090, Total 86.86 Sq. Meter, Including 41.80 Sq Meter Building, Situated At Holebelagalu Village, B. Beeranahalli Village Panchayath, Shivamogga Taluk And Shivamogga District, Karnataka, Pin: 577227. East-Property of Nagappa, West-Road, South-Survey Number Place, North Property of Rajappa	19-12-2025	22-12-2025 & Rs.332556/-
8	Obanayaka P, Rajamma R, Lakshidevamma N, Papanna O, **/NHL00930013956/** Tumkur	All That Piece And Parcel of The House Bearing Katha No.254 And E-Katha No.152500501100800263, Measuring East To West: 10.0584 Meters And North To South: 13.716000000000001 Meters, Situated At Yaragunte Village, I.d. Halli Hobli, Madhugiri Taluk, Tumkur District, Karnataka,Pin:572124. East-Road, West-Galli, South-Road, North-Galli	20-12-2025	22-12-2025 & Rs.517338/-
9	Laxman Rama Bhagannavar, Ganga Laxman Bhagannavar, Choudavva Rama Bhagannavar, **/NHL00980017160/** Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Property Bearing G.P. No. 145/1 GPP No. 941 Plot No. 34 & Gpp No.942 Plot No. 35, Rdpr P.I.D. No. 150400302000120082, Situated At Balekundri K.h Village, Balekundri K.H Grama Panchayat, Belagavi Block, Belagavi (D). Admeasuring: 121.61 Sq. Meters., Karnataka, Pin: 591103. East-Remaining Portion Plot No. 35, West-Adjoining Rs No. 145/2, South-Road, North-Open Space	20-12-2025	22-12-2025 & Rs.814572/-
10	Mahesh Shivappa Mahar, Shivappa Mahar, Anita Mahar, **/NHL00980028015/** Belgaum	Residential Property Bearing Swattin No. 150400303100300220 Gp No: 25/B/1 Total Measuring 160.52 Sq Mtrs., Situated At Shaganmatti Tq: & Dist: Belagavi Within The Limits of Gram Panchayat Mastmardi And Within The Jurisdiction of Sub- Registrar Belagavi Tq: & Dist: Belagavi, Karnataka, Pin: 590003. East-Property of Chandragouda Patil, West-Road, South-Property of Manjula Nagesh Mahar, North-Property of Mahadevi S Mahar	20-12-2025	22-12-2025 & Rs.516177/-
11	Shivaraj Goudar, Chandragouda Goudar, Sulochana Goudar, **/NHL00980029641/** Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Property Bearing G.P. No. 52/A Measuring 72.00 Sq. Mtrs. Including Built Up Area Measuring 62.40 Sq. Mtrs. With Corresponding Rdpr P.I.D. No. 150400204800120101, Situated At Giriyal K.B. Village, Tal: Bailhongal & Dist: Belagavi, Karnataka, Pin: 591109. East-Property of Sulochana Goudar, West-Property of Sumangala Heggannavar, South-Open Space of Balu Hobleppa Goudar, North-Road	20-12-2025	22-12-2025 & Rs.790813/-
12	Laxmi Pujeri, Duragappa Basappa Pujeri, Shanoor Duragappa Pujeri, **/MLAP0098039591/** Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of The Residential Property Bearing Gp No. 185/A/1/1, Swattin No. 150400303600220382 Total Measuring 57.91 Sq. Mtrs, Situated At Mutanal. Tal: Belagavi & Dist: Belagavi, Karnataka, Pin: 591109. East-Property of Hanmant Harijan, West-Property of Padma S Pujeri, South-Government Road, North-Property of Mallappa B Pujeri	20-12-2025	22-12-2025 & Rs.352409/-
13	Rupali Sanjay Dhere, Sanjay Ramchandra Dhere, **/MLAP0098044715/** Belgaum	Gpm No. 559, Total Measuring 1334 Sq Fts., Gijavane, Tq/Gadhinglaj, Dist/ Kolhapur, Maharashtra, Pin: 416502. East-Property of Shri. Balaso Patil, West Property of Shri. Jotiba Dhere, South-Road, North Property of Shri. Sunil Kumbar	20-12-2025	22-12-2025 & Rs.444338/-
14	Shanur Kashappa Gudlar, Fakkiravva Shanur Gudlar, Sanjay Nagappa Nayak, **/NLAP0098045001/** Belgaum	All That Piece And Parcel of G P No. 988/B, Swattin No. 20-505-86, Total Measuring: 25.8363243 Sq Mtrs., Including Built Up Area 25.827034 Sq. Mtrs Situated At Khanapur, Within The Limits of Town Panchayat Khanapur, And Within The Jurisdiction of Sro Khanapur. Tal: Khanapur & Dist: Belagavi, Karnataka, Pin: 591302. East-Tpc No. 988/B-1, West-Road, South-Tpc No. 988/A, North-Road	20-12-2025	22-12-2025 & Rs.524750/-
15	Kalmesh Basavaraj Saradar, Rukmini Kalmesh Saradar, Basavaraj Kallappa Saradar, Prema Basavaraj Saradar, Prasad Ganapatirao Saradar, **/NLAP0026025195/** Hubli	Residential Gramthana Property Vpc No. 237, Property No.150400204700420275, Total Measuring 536.98Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 236.90Sq Mtr, Situated At Nichanaki Village, Tq: Kittur & Dist: Belagavi, Karnataka, Pin: 591115. East-Property of Veerabhadra Varagannavar, West-Property of Madavali Varagannavar, South-Road, North-Road	22-12-2025	23-12-2025 & Rs.1021159/-
16	Shivalingappa Koti, Mallavva Urf Shantakka Koti, Netra Koti, Kavitha Sajivareddi, **/NHL00260034651/** Hubli	Residential Property Bearing Gp Plot No. 442, Property No. 150100200700600275, Total Measuring 400Sq Mtr And Building Measuring 200Sq Mtr, Situated At Bennur PU. K. Village Within Bennur Gram Panchayat, Tq: & Dist: Bagalkot, Karnataka, Pin: 587111. East-Plot No. 441, West-Road, South-Road, North-Plot No. 419	22-12-2025	23-12-2025 & Rs.516795/-
17	Irappa Veerupakshappa Rati, Annapurna Irappa Rati, Ishwar Veerupakshappa Rati, Veerupakshappa Irappa Rati, **/NHL00260037219/** Hubli	All That Part And Parcel of The Gram Panchayat Property Bearing Plot No.834/B/2 Measuring 198.71 Sq. Mtrs. Bearing E-Property No. 151300400500105254 Portion of Plot No.1 of N.A. Land R.S. No.342/B of Saunshi Village, Within The Limits of Gram Panchayat, Saunshi, Tq.: Kundgol, Dist: Dharwad, Karnataka, Pin: 581117. East-Kerosene Oil Pump of Andaneppa Uppin, West-Property of Honavva Rati & Hubballi - Laxmeshwar Road, South-Property No. 834B/2/2, North-House of Annapurna Puttanavar, Siddappa Nagappa Puttanavar	22-12-2025	23-12-2025 & Rs.568575/-
18	Yallalinga Gangavva Madar, Gangavva Shiriyappa Madar, Dalappa Madar, **/NHL00260043297/** Hubli	Residential Property Bearing Vpc No.436A, Property No.150700100901200063, Total Measuring 100.00Sq Mtr Situated At Benal Village Within Benal R C Gram Panchayat, Tq: Nidagundi & Dist: Vijayapur, Karnataka, Pin: 586201. East-Road, West-Vpc No. 453A, South-Vpc No. 437A, North-Vpc No. 435A	22-12-2025	23-12-2025 & Rs.439970/-

Notice, is therefore given to the Borrowers / Co-Borrowers, as mentioned herein above, calling upon them to make payment of the total outstanding amount as shown herein above, against the respective Borrower / Co-Borrower, within 60 days of publication of this notice. Failure to make payment of the total outstanding amount together with further interest by the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower, MAHOFIN shall be constrained to take u/s 13(4) for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described above, steps are also being taken for service of notice in other manners as prescribed under the Act and the rules made hereunder. You are put to notice that the said mortgage can be redeemed upon payment of the entire amount due together with costs, charges and expenses incurred by MAHOFIN at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or private treaty for transfer by way of sale, as detailed in Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act.

Take note that in terms of S-13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you are hereby restrained from transferring and/or dealing with the Secured Properties in any manner by way of sale, lease or in any other manner.

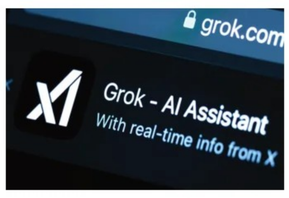
Date: 10th January 2026 | Place: KARNATAKA **Sd/- Authorised Officer Manappuram Home Finance Ltd**

QUICK READ

One dead, dozens trapped after giant landfill collapses

Cebu

A mountain of rubbish collapsed at a landfill in the central Philippines killing a 22-year-old woman and leaving more than 30 people missing, authorities have said. Rescuers pulled 12 injured sanitation workers from debris at the Binaliw Landfill in Cebu City, who were later hospitalised. Many of the missing are believed to be workers at the landfill. The mayor of Cebu told news outlet ABS-CBN that it may be difficult to reach survivors because of the potential for further collapse. The cause of the collapse is still unclear, but Cebu City councillor Joel Garganera said it was likely the result of poor waste management practices.



Vance criticises Denmark and Europe's handling of Greenland

Nuuk

US Vice-President JD Vance says Greenland is critical for the defence of the US and the world against possible Russian or Chinese missile attacks - and that Europe and Denmark have not done a good job in securing the area. Vance told Fox News that they had not only under-invested in Greenland's defences, but also failed to engage with President Donald Trump's argument over the issue. US officials are actively discussing a potential offer to buy Greenland - a semi-autonomous Danish territory - the White House said, a day after suggesting military action to annex it to the US was also an option.

Spain Arrests 34 in Nationwide Crackdown

Spanish authorities dismantled major cybercrime network after coordinated raids exposed global fraud, laundering, and forgery operations worldwide links

MADRID

Spanish law enforcement agencies have arrested 34 individuals in a sweeping nationwide operation targeting the international criminal organisation known as Black Axe. The arrests were made as part of a coordinated effort to dismantle a sophisticated network accused of large-scale fraud, money laundering, and document forgery, according to information released on Friday by Europol.

The operation, carried out across multiple regions of Spain, followed months of intelligence gathering and close cooperation between Spanish police and international law enforcement partners. Investigators allege that the suspects played various roles within the criminal hierarchy, including recruitment, financial management, and the execution of complex cyber-enabled fraud schemes that targeted victims across Europe and beyond.

Black Axe has its origins in Nigeria, where it began in the late 1970s as a university-based student confraternity. Over the decades, authorities say, the group transformed into a highly structured and secretive criminal organisation with a presence in several countries. Its evolution mirrors a broader trend in which loosely organised groups have adopted corporate-style hierarchies, strict codes of loyalty, and transnational operational models to evade detection.

According to Europol, the syndicate is primarily involved in cyber-enabled financial crime, including business email compromise scams, online investment fraud, romance scams, and

identity theft. The proceeds from these activities are allegedly laundered through a web of shell companies, mule accounts, and cryptocurrency transactions, making detection and asset recovery particularly challenging for authorities.

Spanish investigators also uncovered evidence of widespread document forgery, including falsified identification papers and residency documents, which were allegedly used to facilitate illegal activities and enable members to operate under multiple identities. Law enforcement officials stated that several of those arrested are believed to have held leadership or coordination roles within the network's Spanish operations.

Khamenei Accuses Foreign Mercenaries

Continued from page 1

A televised address by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was broadcast on state television on Friday, as the country grappled with renewed nationwide protests, a sweeping internet blackout, and reports of mounting casualties. The speech marked Khamenei's most direct public response to the latest wave of unrest, which has spread beyond its initial economic roots to reflect broader political and social discontent.

Urging Iranians to preserve unity, Khamenei accused a segment of demonstrators of acting on behalf of foreign powers. He claimed that some rioters want to please the US president by damaging public properties, adding that the Islamic Republic would not tolerate what he described as mercenaries working for outsiders. In a pointed remark aimed at Donald Trump, Khamenei said the former US leader should focus on problems in his own country, reinforcing Tehran's long-standing narrative that external forces are behind domestic unrest.

The speech came amid a countrywide internet blackout that began and extended into Friday, according to NetBlocks, a global internet monitoring organisation. The disruption severely limited access to social media platforms and messaging services, tools that have historically played a crucial role in mobilising protests and sharing information during periods of unrest in Iran.

The latest demonstrations reportedly began in Tehran,

Iran's supreme leader warned protesters against unrest as nationwide demonstrations, internet shutdowns, and mounting deaths deepened political tensions.

sparked by shopkeepers in the Grand Bazaar angered by a sharp depreciation of the Iranian rial. What started as economically driven protests has since expanded to involve wider sections of society. Unlike the 2022–23 protests, which were led prominently by women and girls, the current unrest is said to involve mainly young men, reflecting a shift in the demographic profile of demonstrators.

The protests have also coincided with renewed calls for demonstrations from Reza Pahlavi, the US-based, long-exiled son of Iran's last shah, who was overthrown during the 1979 Islamic Revolution. His statements have drawn attention from both supporters and critics, with Iranian authorities frequently accusing opposition figures abroad of inciting unrest. Meanwhile, the Human Rights Activists News Agency, based in the United States, reported that at least 34 protesters and four security personnel have been killed during the unrest.

Colombia's Petro Warns of Real Threat

BOGOTA

Colombia's President Gustavo Petro has sounded the alarm about what he called a real threat of United States military action against his country, in a rare and sharp escalation of rhetoric between long-time partners. Petro made the comments in an interview with the BBC, amid deepening tensions sparked by recent statements and conduct by US President Donald Trump.

The warning follows a series of inflammatory remarks from Trump in which he suggested that a military operation targeting Colombia sounds good to him — remarks that Petro and other Colombian officials characterised as threatening and unwarranted. Trump's comments came in the context of regional upheaval triggered by a controversial US military strike in neighbouring Venezuela, during which Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro was captured.

Petro, a former guerrilla fighter turned politician, strongly condemned Trump's language, including when the US president told him to watch his ass, remarks that were widely condemned in

Colombian leader Gustavo Petro warns of real danger of US military intervention after Trump's remarks and diplomatic strains escalate.

Bogotá and seen as further escalating the standoff.

Despite the heated rhetoric, there have been signs of a tentative diplomatic thaw. A phone call between Trump and Petro led to an announcement that Petro will be invited to the White House in the near future, a move that followed what both sides described as a more constructive conversation. This development suggested officials on both sides may be seeking to limit the fallout from earlier exchanges.

Still, Petro's comments reflect deep suspicion in Bogotá about Washington's intentions and broader concerns in Latin America over US interventionism. Some analysts point to the region's history and current geopolitical climate, where fears of foreign military action are heightened by recent US operations and political messaging.

Colombian officials have tried to balance these tensions by emphasising continued cooperation with the United States on shared challenges, especially drug trafficking.

French opposition parties seek to topple government over Mercosur

PARIS

France's far-right and far-left opposition parties will launch no-confidence motions against France's weak minority government in response to the likely approval on Friday of the EU's Mercosur trade deal.

The far-left France Unbowed (LFI) party said it would file a no-confidence motion on Friday morning, while the far-right National Rally (RN) said it would also launch one against the European Commission chief in Brussels.

The no-confidence motions underline the domestic political blowback French President Emmanuel Macron's government faces over the trade deal with South American nations as it battles to pass an already-late 2026 budget through a truculent parliament. It seems unlikely the RN and LFI will muster enough votes in parliament to oust the government, led by Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu.

'Yemen's main southern separatists to disband'

SANAA

Yemen's main southern separatists have decided to disband following talks in Saudi Arabia, the secretary-general of the organisation has announced. The Southern Transitional Council (STC) Secretary-General Abdulrahman Al-Subaihi said in a broadcast on Yemeni television on Friday that the dissolution of the group was taken to preserve peace and security in the south and in neighbouring countries. He praised the measures taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the solutions it has provided that meet the needs of the people of the South.

However, there was no immediate comment from those members of the separatist group who are not taking part in the talks in Riyadh. The STC had said it had lost contact with all members of the delegation in Riyadh, indicating a split was emerging within the group.A feud between Saudi Arabia and the UAE that came to light after the STC, which Riyadh says is backed by Abu Dhabi, launched an offensive against Saudi-backed Yemeni government troops in December.

The Saudi Arabia-led coalition in Yemen said the STC leader Aidarous al-Zubaidi had fled to the UAE via Somaliland after skipping the talks in Riyadh, accusing the UAE of smuggling him out of the country.

Grok AI image editing limited to paid X users after deepfakes

WASHINGTON

Elon Musk's platform X has limited image editing with its AI tool Grok to paying users, after it came under fire for allowing people to make sexualised deepfakes. There has been a significant backlash after the chatbot honoured requests from users to digitally alter images of other people by undressing them without their consent. But Grok is now telling people asking it to make such material that only paid subscribers would be able to do so - meaning their name and payment information must be on file.

Indian Army Chief Holds Defence Talks with Sri Lanka's Deputy Defence Minister

COLOMBO

Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi held talks with Sri Lanka's Deputy Defence Minister Aruna Jayasekera and senior military officials during a two-day official visit to the island nation, aimed at strengthening bilateral defence cooperation.

General Dwivedi visited Sri Lanka from January 7 to 8 to enhance military-to-military engagement between the two countries. According to the Indian High Commission, discussions focused on deepening defence ties, expanding cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and reinforcing collaboration in areas of mutual strategic interest. The talks reflected the shared commitment of India and Sri Lanka towards regional security, stability and an enduring defence partnership.

The Army Chief was accorded a guard of honour at the Sri Lanka Army headquarters, where he held discussions with Lieutenant General BKGM Lasantha Rodrigo, Commander of the Sri Lanka Army. During the visit, military vehicles, ambulances and training simulators were handed over to Sri Lanka, further reinforcing defence cooperation and the longstanding bonds of friendship between the two nations. General Dwivedi also visited the Army War College, where he witnessed the foundation-laying ceremony of the India–Sri Lanka Friendship Sports Complex. Addressing faculty members and student officers, he spoke on the evolving global security landscape, the changing nature of modern warfare and its operational implications, while emphasising the role of emerging technologies in military operations.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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	7				1		6	4
	3	2	6			1		8
	6		8		4		7	
	9			1	8			6
6		5		2			3	
8		3	7		5	9		1

1	4	2	5	9	6	3	7	8
3	7	6	8	1	4	5	9	2
5	8	9	3	7	2	4	1	6
6	5	1	4	8	9	7	2	3
7	3	4	2	5	1	8	6	9
2	9	8	7	6	3	1	5	4
9	1	3	6	4	7	2	8	5
8	2	7	9	3	5	6	4	1
4	6	5	1	2	8	9	3	7

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

RUSSIA MISSILE ESCALATION

Ukraine Urges Allies to Pressure Russia

KYIV

Ukraine has urged its Western allies to intensify diplomatic, military, and economic pressure on Russia after Moscow confirmed the use of a newly developed missile in strikes targeting western parts of the country. The appeal came after Russia acknowledged deploying the so-called Oreshnik missile during a barrage of overnight attacks on Kyiv and the western city of Lviv, areas geographically close to the borders of the European Union and the NATO alliance.

According to Russian officials, the strikes were carried into Friday and involved hundreds of weapons, including drones, cruise missiles, and the new intermediate-range ballistic missile. Ukraine's government described the use of the Oreshnik missile near the EU and NATO frontier as a grave threat not only to Ukraine but to broader European security, warning that such actions signal a dangerous escalation in the conflict.

Russia's Ministry of Defence said the missile was used as part of a wider operation against what it described as military and infrastructure targets. Ukrainian authorities, however, reported civilian casualties. Officials in Kyiv said at least four people were killed and 22 others injured in the capital as a result of the strikes. Emergency services worked through the night to extinguish fires and rescue residents from damaged buildings.

Further west, Russia also struck critical infrastructure in Lviv, using what local authorities described as an unidentified ballistic missile. Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyi said the attack caused significant disruption to energy facilities, underlining the continued vulnerability of Ukraine's infrastructure as winter approaches.

Ukraine's Air Force later provided additional technical details, stating that the missile used in the attack travelled at an estimated speed of 13,000 kilometres per hour, or more than 8,000 miles per hour. Officials said investigations were ongoing to determine the exact specifications and capabilities of the weapon, which they believe represents a new class of Russian missile technology.

QUICK READ

PF contribution limit may be raised to Rs 30,000

Mumbai

According to the latest update, employees who have not yet been fully benefiting from the Provident Fund (PF) scheme may receive their dues, as the demand to increase the PF salary limit (EPF Wage Limit) is entering its final stages. A recent directive from the Supreme Court has paved the way for PF benefits for these employees, who have been waiting for this rule to change for the past 11 years. In its directive, the Supreme Court has given the central government and EPFO four months to come to a decision on this issue.

NHAI sets 2 Records on Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Expressway

Vijayawada

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has achieved a remarkable feat, setting two Guinness World Records during the construction of the Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada Economic Corridor (NH-544G) in Andhra Pradesh, especially on the Vanavolu-Vankarakunda section of Andhra Pradesh. NHAI entered the Guinness World Records by achieving unprecedented speed and volume in road construction within 24 hours. Reflecting India's vision of continuous focus on equipping the country with world-class highway infrastructure, 28.95 lane kilometres and 10,675 Mt of bituminous concrete were laid continuously within 24 hours.

10 Gurugram roads to connect with Dwarka Expressway

Gurugram

Despite efforts to acquire 30 meters of land, the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) has not yet been able to connect more than 10 proposed major roads running from Gurugram Sector 99 to Sector 115 to the Dwarka Expressway. Amidst people facing difficulties, the meeting of the district coordination committee was conducted at the Mini Secretariat in Deeper Baas under the chairmanship of the Chief Advisor for Urban Development, Dheeraj Desi. According to a report in Hindustan, detailed discussions were held regarding land acquisition in the meeting.

RBI Compounds FEMA Contraventions by Kakinada Seaports

The RBI has compounded FEMA violations by Kakinada Seaports, ending adjudication proceedings after settlement

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a compounding order on December 12, 2025, under Section 15 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, in the case of Kakinada Seaports Limited, resulting in the termination of adjudication proceedings against the company. The development was confirmed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an official statement released on Friday.

According to the ED, the compounding order was passed by the RBI after the Directorate issued a no objection certificate in the matter. The ED had earlier initiated an investigation against Kakinada Seaports Limited under the provisions of FEMA after receiving credible information pointing to alleged violations of foreign exchange regulations. Following the completion of its investigation, the ED filed a complaint before the adjudicating authority on September 5, 2024, under Section 16 of FEMA, detailing multiple contraventions of the Act.

The alleged violations primarily related to procedural delays in compliance with foreign investment reporting norms. These included late reporting of foreign inward remittances amounting to Rs 22.88 crore, delay in filing Form FCGPR after the issuance of shares involving Rs 23.31 crore, and delays in the allotment of shares under Paragraph 8 of Schedule 1 to 20 of FEMA, covering transactions worth Rs 7.21 crore.

Subsequently, the adjudicating authority issued a show-cause notice dated September 30, 2024, under Section 16 of FEMA to the company, as well as its directors and officers who were responsible for the conduct of business during the period when the contraventions allegedly occurred. The notice sought explanations as to why action should not be taken for the violations cited.

In response, Kakinada Seaports Limited approached the RBI with an application seeking compounding of the alleged contraventions under Section 15 of FEMA. Upon receiving a reference from the RBI, the ED examined the request and conveyed its no objection for compounding, stating that such action was in line with the true spirit and intent of the Act.

Startup Founders Say PM Meet Inspired Vision for Ethical AI

NEW DELHI

Indian AI startup founders said their interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspired people-centric, ethical innovation in technology

Founders of domestic Artificial Intelligence (AI) startups have said that their recent interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi has significantly influenced their thinking on how AI can be developed to transform lives and address real societal challenges. The meeting, held as part of a roundtable discussion at the Prime Minister's residence, focused on leveraging emerging technologies for inclusive and responsible growth.

Dr Siddharth Panwar, CEO and co-founder of NeuroDx, said the Prime Minister's insights helped broaden their understanding of AI's role beyond commercial success. He noted that PM Modi encouraged startups to focus on solutions tailored to India's unique needs rather than merely replicating Western models. He inspired us to not just replicate what Western countries are doing, but to create AI that can bring about a positive change in the lives of ordinary people in the country, Panwar said, adding that such guidance reinforced their mission of using AI for public good.

Echoing similar views, Nikhil Malhotra, Chief Innovation Officer of Tech Mahindra, described the interaction with the Prime Minister as a meaningful experience. Malhotra said PM Modi demonstrated a strong understanding of the importance of AI adoption in India and underlined the need for responsible innovation. According to him, the Prime Minister emphasised the development of AI solutions that are ethical, transparent, and forward-looking, especially in areas where such solutions have not yet been developed globally. The roundtable discussion took place at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, where the Prime Minister urged Indian startups to harness AI for societal good. He encouraged innovators to focus on making AI affordable, inclusive, and accessible, ensuring that the benefits of advanced technology reach a broad section of society rather than a select few. Ayush Gupta, CEO of Genloop, said the meeting involved in-depth discussions on what India's own AI models should look like.

India's dairy sector undergoing digital transformation

NEW DELHI

India's dairy sector is undergoing a remarkable digital transformation that will help not only to enhance its productivity but also boost transparency and inclusiveness with farmer welfare, said the government on Friday. India is the world's largest producer of milk, accounting for 25 per cent of global output. The transformation, including the development of digital platforms that connect farmers, cooperatives, and stakeholders across the dairy value chain, is being spearheaded by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

These systems are not just enhancing operational productivity but also ensuring that millions of small and marginal dairy farmers are directly linked to a modern, tech-driven ecosystem, said an official statement. The integrated digital tools include the Automatic Milk Collection System (AMCS), which has benefitted over 17.3 lakh milk producers across 54 milk unions. This ensures transparent payments and efficient operations. The Internet-based Dairy Information System (i-DIS) is being used by around 198 milk unions and 15 federations for data-driven decision-making and performance benchmarking.

South Korea's cosmetics exports surged to a record in 2025, driven by K-beauty popularity and market diversification

S.Korea's Cosmetics Exports Hit Record High in 2025

SEOUL

South Korea's cosmetics exports touched a record high in 2025, buoyed by the growing global appeal of Korean culture and sustained efforts by the country to diversify its export markets, official data released on Friday showed. Outbound shipments of Korean beauty products rose 12.3 per cent year-on-year to an all-time high of $11.43 billion in 2025, according to data from the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety.

By destination, exports to the United States recorded a strong increase, rising 15.1 per cent from a year earlier to $2.19 billion. This marked a historic shift, as the U.S. became the largest export destination for South Korean cosmetics for the first time. In contrast, shipments to China declined sharply by 19.2 per cent to $2.01 billion, reflecting changing market dynamics and intensifying competition in the Chinese beauty sector.

Exports to other Asian markets showed steady growth. Shipments to Japan increased 5 per cent to $1.09 billion in 2025, while exports to Hong Kong jumped 21.6 per cent to $705 million. The data highlighted South Korea's broader push to reduce dependence on a few major markets by expanding its global footprint.

The number of countries importing South Korean cosmetics rose significantly to 202 in 2025, up from 172 in 2024. Exports to regions such as Europe, the Middle East, Southwest Asia and Latin America continued to grow, even as the relative shares of shipments to the U.S. and China showed signs of moderation, the ministry said.

A breakdown by product category revealed that skincare products remained the backbone of exports. Shipments of items such as moisturizers rose 11.6 per cent year-on-year to $8.54 billion. Color cosmetics exports climbed 12 per cent to $1.51 billion, while body cleansing products saw a sharp rise of 27.3 per cent to $590 million. Fragrance exports recorded the fastest growth, surging 46.2 per cent to $60 million in 2025.

Ashwini Vaishnaw meets Nvidia, discusses sovereign GPU manufacturing

NEW DELHI

The Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, met with global chipmaker Nvidia's team to discuss the development of sovereign graphics processing units (GPUs) and local manufacturing of edge devices such as the DGX Spark in India.

Edge devices are hardware components, such as sensors, cameras, routers, etc, placed in a network, close to where data is generated, processing information locally before sending it to the cloud or data centre.

Taking to social media platform X, the minister said that the devices planned for local development can deliver up to 1 petaFLOP performance secure inferencing for models up to 200 billion parameters.

This compact GPU doesn't require the Internet. Suitable for railways, shipping, healthcare, education, and remote applications, the post added.

Nvidia had earlier announced collaboration with Indian and US investors to support India's fast-growing deep-tech ecosystem, as the India Deep Tech Alliance announced over $850 million in fresh capital commitments.

The alliance, which was launched in September with an initial $1 billion fund, aims to back startups working in cutting-edge sectors such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and space technology.

LG Energy Solution Q4 Loss Narrows despite Weak EV Battery Demand

SEOUL

South Korea's leading battery maker LG Energy Solution on Friday reported that it continued to post operating losses in the fourth quarter, although the deficit nearly halved from a year earlier as the company navigated weak global demand for electric vehicle (EV) batteries.

In a preliminary earnings report, the company said its operating loss for the October–December period stood at 122 billion won ($83.8 million), significantly narrower than the 225 billion won loss recorded in the same quarter of 2024. Despite the improvement in profitability, revenue declined 4.8 per cent year-on-year to 6.14 trillion won during the quarter. Data on net income was not disclosed in the preliminary filing.

The fourth-quarter operating loss came in 8.5 per cent lower than the market average estimate, according to a survey by Yonhap Infomax, the financial data arm. Analysts attributed the narrower-than-expected loss partly to cost controls and government support measures in overseas markets.

LG Energy Solution also said it received tax credits worth 332.8 billion won under the Advanced Manufacturing Production Credit (AMPC) programme linked to the United States' Inflation Reduction Act. However, the company cautioned that excluding the AMPC benefit, its operating loss in the fourth quarter would have widened to 454.8 billion won, underlining the ongoing pressure on its core battery business.

The company said it will release its final and detailed earnings report at a later date.

On a full-year basis, LG Energy Solution posted a sharp rebound in operating performance. For 2025, operating profit came in at 1.34 trillion won, marking a 133.9 per cent increase from the previous year. However, annual revenue declined 7.6 per cent to 23.67 trillion won, reflecting slower EV demand across major markets. Net earnings data for the full year was not available.

GST reforms, rural recovery drive strong Q3 for India's auto sector

NEW DELHI

India's automobile industry delivered a strong performance with passenger volumes up 20 per cent YoY in the October–December 2025 quarter, driven by GST reforms, a pickup in rural demand, and sustained festive momentum, a report said on Friday. Financial services firm PL Capital said in a report that improved affordability, easier financing, and recovering consumer sentiment supported broad based volume growth across passenger vehicles, two wheelers, and commercial vehicles.

Passenger vehicle volumes rose due to GST led price cuts and year end discounts, while inventory days fell sharply to 45 days in November, about 38 in December, from over 55 earlier. Small cars saw more pronounced benefits from GST cuts, even as SUVs continued to dominate demand, reinforcing the ongoing premiumisation trend.

Further, two wheelers recorded high teens growth, led by motorcycles in the 150cc and higher segments, with some models facing extended waiting periods due to strong retail sales and dealer restocking, the report said.

Commercial vehicles showed early signs of an upcycle during Q3FY26, supported by a revival in construction and mining activity after an extended monsoon season. Medium and heavy commercial vehicles outperformed light commercial vehicles as replacement demand picked up, and customers opted for higher-tonnage vehicles.

Improved affordability following GST rate rationalisation also encouraged fleet operators to advance purchase decisions, the report noted.

INDIA-EU FTA TALKS

Piyush Goyal, EU Commissioner Hold High-Level Talks

BRUSSELS

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal held high-level discussions with the European Union's Trade and Economic Security Commissioner Maros Sefcovic in Brussels on Friday, as both sides stepped up efforts to conclude a mutually beneficial India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The talks are part of sustained diplomatic and technical engagements aimed at resolving outstanding issues and accelerating progress towards a comprehensive pact.

Sharing details of the meeting on social media platform X, Goyal said the dialogue covered key areas of the proposed agreement. During this dialogue, we deliberated across key areas of the proposed agreement. We reaffirmed our commitment to a rules-based trading framework and a modern economic partnership that safeguards the interests of farmers and MSMEs while integrating Indian industries into global supply chains, he said. India has been pressing for zero-duty access for its labour-intensive sectors, including textiles, leather, apparel, gems and jewellery, and handicrafts, which are seen as major employment generators.

The Indian minister's visit to Brussels highlights the growing momentum in India-EU economic engagement at a time when both sides are seeking to strengthen supply chain resilience and reduce vulnerabilities in an uncertain global trade environment. Officials said the primary objective of the current round of interactions is to provide strategic guidance to negotiators, iron out remaining differences, and expedite the conclusion of a balanced and ambitious trade agreement.

The ministerial-level engagement follows a week of intensive discussions in Brussels, building on groundwork laid earlier this week during high-level talks between India's Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal and Sabine Weyand, Director-General for Trade at the European Commission. These discussions focused on narrowing gaps in sensitive areas and aligning expectations on market access, regulatory standards, and sustainable development.

The negotiations come at a significant moment in India-EU economic relations. Talks for the FTA were relaunched in June 2022 after a hiatus of more than nine years, reflecting renewed political will on both sides to deepen economic integration. Since then, India and the EU have held 14 formal rounds of negotiations along with several high-level ministerial dialogues.

Expressways in India:

Changing the Face of Road Travel

India's expressway network represents one of the most ambitious infrastructure development programs undertaken by the country in recent decades. These high-speed, access-controlled highways are transforming connectivity, reducing travel times, and driving economic growth across the nation. From the pioneering Mumbai-Pune Expressway to the ambitious Bharatmala Pariyojana program, expressways are reshaping how Indians travel and do business.

Understanding Expressways: More Than Just Roads

Expressways are specialized roadways designed for high-speed vehicular traffic, featuring controlled access, grade separations at intersections, and multiple lanes in each direction. Unlike conventional highways where vehicles can enter or exit at numerous points, expressways limit access to designated entry and exit points, ensuring smoother traffic flow and enhanced safety.

In India, expressways typically feature a minimum of four lanes (two in each direction) and often expand to six or eight lanes in high-traffic corridors. These roads are engineered to accommodate speeds of 100-120 kilometers per hour, significantly higher than the typical 60-80 kmph on national highways. The design standards include features such as service roads running parallel to the main carriageway, proper drainage systems, adequate lighting, emergency lanes, and strategically placed toll plazas.

The distinction between expressways and national highways is crucial. While both fall under the purview of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), expressways offer superior design specifications, restricted access, and higher speed limits.

This makes them ideal for long-distance travel and freight transportation, where time efficiency directly translates to economic benefits.

Challenges & Concerns

Economic Impact and Benefits

Major Expressways Transforming India

Several expressways have become landmarks in India's infrastructure landscape. The Delhi-Meerut Expressway, with its 14-lane configuration, stands as one of India's widest expressways and has dramatically improved connectivity between Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh. This expressway features intelligent traffic management systems and is designed to handle heavy traffic volumes efficiently.

The Purvanchal Expressway in Uttar Pradesh, spanning 340 kilometers, connects

Lucknow to Ghazipur and passes through nine districts. This expressway includes a 3.5-kilometer airstrip section that can be used by the Indian Air Force during emergencies, showcasing the strategic importance of these infrastructure projects. The Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Mahamarg, one of India's longest expressways at approximately 701 kilometers, promises to revolutionize connectivity between Maharashtra's two major cities. Reducing travel time from the current 12-16 hours to just 8 hours, this expressway is expected to unlock economic potential across central Maharashtra.

The Dwarka Expressway, connecting Delhi to Gurugram and extending to the planned Dwarka sub-city, represents urban expressway development. Despite facing numerous challenges including land acquisition issues, its completion is set to ease traffic congestion significantly in the National Capital Region. Looking toward the future, the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway stands as India's most ambitious expressway project. Covering approximately 1,350 kilometers across six states, this greenfield expressway will reduce travel time between India's political and financial capitals from 24 hours to just 12 hours. The project incorporates cutting-edge technology, including electric vehicle charging stations, advanced traffic management systems, and wayside amenities at regular intervals.

The Road Ahead

India's expressway development trajectory appears promising. The Bharatmala Pariyojana, an umbrella program for highway development, includes substantial expressway components aimed at enhancing connectivity to economic centers, border areas, and coastal regions. This program envisions developing approximately 34,800 kilometers of highways, including numerous expressways, by the end of this decade. State governments are also launching their own expressway projects, recognizing the economic benefits such infrastructure brings. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and several other states have announced ambitious expressway programs to improve intra-state connectivity. Technological integration will deepen as India moves toward connected and autonomous vehicles. Future expressways may feature dedicated lanes for autonomous vehicles.

The economic implications of expressway development extend far beyond reduced travel times. Expressways create significant employment opportunities during construction phases, with thousands of workers engaged in building, engineering, and support services. Once operational, they generate ongoing employment through toll collection, maintenance, highway patrol, and services at rest stops.

Freight transportation benefits immensely from expressways. The logistics sector, which contributes significantly to India's GDP, depends on efficient road networks. Expressways reduce fuel consumption through consistent high-speed travel, minimize vehicle wear and tear, and enable just-in-time delivery systems. These factors collectively reduce logistics costs, making Indian businesses more competitive globally.

Real estate development along expressway corridors represents another major economic benefit. Cities and towns located along expressways experience increased property values and attract residential, commercial, and industrial investments. The Yamuna Expressway corridor, for instance, has seen substantial real estate development, with several industrial projects and residential townships being established.

Agricultural communities gain improved market access through expressways. Farmers can transport perishable goods to urban markets more quickly, reducing spoilage and increasing profitability. Better connectivity also facilitates the movement of agricultural inputs like fertilizers and machinery, contributing to agricultural productivity.

Tourism receives a significant boost from improved road connectivity. Expressways make tourist destinations more accessible, encouraging domestic tourism and contributing to local economies. The upcoming Bundelkhand Expressway, for example, is expected to promote tourism in a historically underserved region.

Technological Innovations and Smart Features

Modern expressways in India increasingly incorporate intelligent transportation systems and smart technologies. Electronic toll collection through FASTag has become mandatory, enabling seamless toll payments without requiring vehicles to stop. This technology reduces congestion at toll plazas and improves traffic flow significantly. Advanced traffic management systems use sensors and cameras to monitor traffic conditions in real time. These systems can detect accidents, breakdowns, or unusual traffic patterns and alert authorities immediately. Variable message signs inform drivers about road conditions, diversions, or weather alerts, enhancing safety.

Many new expressways feature dedicated infrastructure for electric vehicles, including charging stations at regular intervals. This forward-looking approach supports India's transition toward sustainable transportation and reduces dependence on fossil fuels. Some expressways incorporate green corridors with extensive tree plantations along their lengths.

Sindhu advances to Malaysia Open semis after Yamaguchi retires

Indian shuttler progresses after dominant opening game as injured Yamaguchi concedes quarterfinal

KUALA LUMPUR

Two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu moved into the semifinals of the Malaysia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament on Friday after Japan's Akane Yamaguchi retired injured during their women's singles quarterfinal clash here.

Sindhu, currently ranked world No. 18, looked in complete control as she clinched the opening game 21-11 against the third-ranked Yamaguchi. The Japanese star, a three-time world champion and third seed, was visibly struggling with her movement and was wearing a knee brace. After the first game, Yamaguchi decided to withdraw from the contest, citing discomfort, allowing Sindhu to progress without completing the match.

The victory further strengthened Sindhu's head-to-head record against Yamaguchi, taking it to 15-12 in favour of the Indian. The matchup has long been one of the most competitive rivalries in women's badminton, often featuring intense rallies and momentum swings, making Friday's early conclusion an unfortunate outcome for spectators.

For Sindhu, the result marks another encouraging step in her comeback journey. The Hyderabad-born shuttler is playing her first tournament since returning from a prolonged injury lay-off, and her assured display in the opening game underlined her improving fitness and confidence. She dictated the pace early, controlled the net exchanges, and capitalised on Yamaguchi's limited mobility to build a comfortable lead.

Sindhu will now face the winner of the quarterfinal between China's second seed Wang Zhiyi and Indonesia's sixth seed Putri Kusuma Wardani in the semifinals, scheduled for Saturday. A place in the final would represent a significant milestone as she looks to regain top form on the BWF World Tour.

Later in the day, India's top men's doubles pair, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, are set to play their quarterfinal against Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri, continuing India's strong presence at the prestigious tournament.

Former skipper urges calm, dialogue as Bangladesh weighs long-term consequences of T20WC decision

Don't be emotional: Tamim on B'desh's T20WC stance

DHAKA

Former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal has advised the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to avoid making emotionally driven decisions while deliberating the national team's participation in next month's ICC T20 World Cup in India, warning that any hasty call could have repercussions for Bangladesh cricket for years to come.

Bangladesh have expressed reluctance to tour India for the tournament, scheduled to begin on February 7, and have requested that their matches be shifted to co-host Sri Lanka, citing security concerns. The issue gained further traction after pacer Mustafizur Rahman was released by IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders on instructions from the BCCI for unspecified reasons, amid reports of attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh.

Tamim said the current situation was "critical" and required careful handling rather than reactionary responses. "Many issues can often be resolved through dialogue if everyone comes together," he said, stressing the importance of considering Bangladesh's standing in world cricket and the long-term future of the sport in the country.

The former opener's remarks come amid strong statements from Bangladesh sports ministry advisor Asif Nazrul, who has taken a hardline stance on the venue issue, invoking national pride and reflecting a growing anti-India sentiment within government circles. While the BCB has largely echoed this view, there are indications that the board, now headed by Aminul Islam Bulbul, is not entirely unified on the approach.

Tamim underlined the need for the BCB to function independently. "Public opinion will always vary and is often driven by emotion. If you start making decisions based on that, you cannot run such a big organization," he said. "Today's decisions will have an impact ten years down the line."

The 36-year-old also criticised the daily public statements from both the board and the government, arguing that premature disclosures create confusion and uncertainty. He concluded by urging authorities to prioritise the long-term interests of Bangladesh cricket and its players above all else.

Former India batter calls for administrative reform to protect significance of global tournaments

Novelty of ICC events is wearing off, it must be preserved: Uthappa

DURBAN

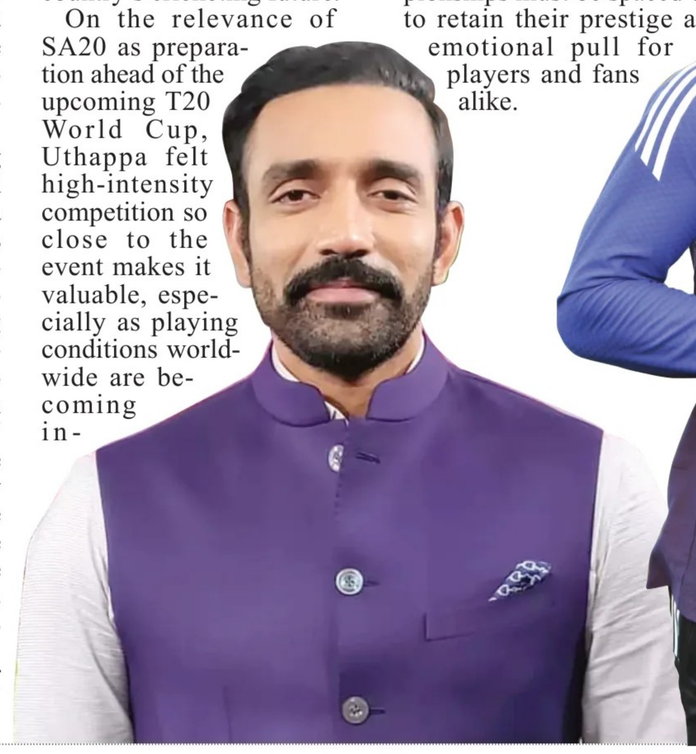
Former India cricketer Robin Uthappa believes the growing frequency of ICC events risks diluting their significance and has urged administrators to preserve the novelty and meaning of global tournaments. Speaking on the sidelines of the ongoing SA20 league, where he is part of the commentary panel, Uthappa said the sport must evolve from an administrative perspective to align with changing audience expectations.

Watching an enthralling contest at Kingsmead on Wednesday night, Uthappa was transported back to his own playing days at the iconic venue. Durban holds a special place in his career, having been the stage for India's dramatic bowl-out win over Pakistan and Yuvraj Singh's six sixes in the inaugural 2007 World T20, followed by the famous semifinal victory against Australia. "Every time I come here, I think of the memories we created," he said, recalling the meticulous preparation behind those historic moments.

Praising the growth of SA20 in its fourth season, Uthappa described it as the second-best league after the IPL in terms of atmosphere and quality. He highlighted young South African talents such as Nqobani Mokoena and Jordan Harmann as players destined for international cricket, adding that leagues like SA20 are vital for the country's cricketing future.

On the relevance of SA20 as preparation ahead of the upcoming T20 World Cup, Uthappa felt high-intensity competition so close to the event makes it valuable, especially as playing conditions worldwide are becoming increasingly similar.

However, the former Bengaluru batter was candid about concerns over the crowded international calendar. "How much value do fans hold for an ICC tournament every year?" he asked, adding that constant repetition risks audience fatigue. According to him, ICC championships must be spaced out to retain their prestige and emotional pull for players and fans alike.



Tilak Varma out of first three T20s after groin surgery

NEW DELHI

India batter Tilak Varma has been ruled out of the first three T20 Internationals against New Zealand after undergoing surgery for a groin-related issue that caused acute pain, the BCCI confirmed. The setback has also cast doubt over the 23-year-old's availability for next month's ICC T20 World Cup.

Tilak, who was in Rajkot with the Hyderabad team for the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy, was rushed to hospital after complaining of severe discomfort. Medical scans revealed testicular torsion, a condition that causes sudden and intense pain and requires immediate surgical intervention. He was subsequently operated upon at Gokul Hospital.

A BCCI official said the board's medical team sought specialist opinions, which concurred with the need for urgent surgery. "Tilak underwent successful surgery and is doing well now. We will update once there is more clarity on his recovery and expected return-to-play timeline after discussions with the medical panel," the official told.

In a later statement, the BCCI clarified that the procedure was carried out on Wednesday, January 7. Tilak was discharged from hospital on Thursday morning and is scheduled to return to Hyderabad on Friday. "He is currently stable and progressing well," the board said.

According to the BCCI, Tilak will resume physical training only after his symptoms have fully resolved and wound healing is satisfactory. He will then gradually return to skill-based cricketing activities under medical supervision. While he has been ruled out of the first three T20Is against New Zealand, his availability for the remaining two matches — scheduled for January 28 and 31 — will be assessed based on his recovery progress.

Vijay Hazare Trophy: MP hammer Karnataka to seal quarters ticket

AHMEDABAD

A resolute Madhya Pradesh delivered a commanding all-round performance to thrash defending champions Karnataka by seven wickets in a must-win Elite Group A encounter of the Vijay Hazare Trophy, sealing the second quarterfinal berth in dramatic fashion.

With Kerala and Jharkhand also locked on 16 points alongside Madhya Pradesh heading into the final round of group matches, the stakes were high for all three sides. Karnataka, however, had already secured the top spot and a knockout ticket. Facing the toughest equation, Madhya Pradesh rose to the occasion, dismantling the group leaders with 26.4 overs to spare at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

The foundation of the emphatic win was laid by left-arm spinner Shivang Kumar, whose brilliant spell of 5 for 45 ripped through Karnataka's batting lineup. Openers Mayank Agarwal (49) and Devdutt Padikkal (35) once again provided a steady start, but the middle order failed to build on it, collapsing under sustained pressure from Shivang and the supporting cast as Karnataka were bowled out for 207 in 47.4 overs.

Kyrgios won't play singles at Aus Open, says body not ready for five-set tennis

MELBOURNE

Nick Kyrgios has confirmed he will not compete in the singles draw at the upcoming Australian Open, saying his body is not yet prepared for the physical demands of five-set tennis. The 30-year-old Australian, however, will feature in the doubles event alongside his close friend and regular partner Thanasi Kokkinakis when the season's first Grand Slam begins on January 18.

Kyrgios, who reached the Wimbledon final in 2022, has struggled with fitness in recent years. Multiple wrist and knee surgeries have severely restricted his time on court, limiting him to just seven singles tour matches over the past three seasons and causing his world ranking to plummet to 670.

Speculation had been rife in local media that Kyrgios could be awarded one of the remaining singles wild cards by Tennis Australia. However, the governing body announced on Friday that the wild cards would instead go to 2014 champion Stan Wawrinka, along with Australians Jordan Thompson and Chris O'Connell. Wawrinka, now 40, has already indicated that 2026 will be his final season on the ATP Tour.

Bengaluru Open: India's singles campaign ends

BENGALURU

India's challenge in the singles draw came to an end at the Bengaluru Open after both Manas Dhamne and Dhakshineswar Suresh bowed out in the quarterfinals at the SM Krishna Stadium. The defeats meant there would be no Indian representation in the semifinals of the ATP 125 Challenger event.

World No. 556 Manas Dhamne saw his impressive run halted by France's Matteo Martineau, ranked 319, who won 6-4, 7-6(5). Despite the straight-sets loss, the 18-year-old's quarterfinal appearance marked his deepest run at a Challenger-level tournament, underlining his growing promise on the professional circuit.

Dhakshineswar Suresh, meanwhile, fought valiantly before going down 6-7(5), 2-6 to second seed Harold Mayot of France. The big-serving Indian, who stands at 6'5" and is in his final semester at Wake Forest University in the United States, struggled with physical issues and required multiple medical timeouts during the contest. Nevertheless, he showcased his explosive game, using the extra bounce offered by the high-altitude venue to good effect, particularly with his kick serves.

The opening set was a closely fought affair, with both players holding serve for long periods. Mayot, however, used his court awareness and tactical adjustments effectively, employing low backhand slices to exploit the Indian's movement. The Frenchman edged the tie-break before capitalising on Dhakshineswar's dip in intensity and accuracy in the second set to close out the match.

It was meant to be: Young India spinner Vaishnavi on cricket career

NEW DELHI

For India's young left-arm spinner Vaishnavi Sharma, cricket was not just a choice but a destiny foretold long before she first held a bat or ball. The 20-year-old from Gwalior believes her journey into the sport was "meant to be," a belief reinforced by her father, astrologer Narendra Sharma, who foresaw a future in either sports or medicine for his daughter.

Vaishnavi recalled how her inclination towards sport became clear early. She began serious practice by the age of seven and played her first Under-16 match for Madhya Pradesh at 11–12, a moment she considers the true beginning of her cricketing journey. "From the very first day, cricket was always my goal," she said, adding that nothing else gives her the same sense of fulfilment.

Vaishnavi made her India T20 International debut last year in a home series against Sri Lanka, where she finished as the joint-highest wicket-taker for India with five scalps across five matches. The performance marked a major breakthrough, especially after a period of personal disappointment.

She admitted to feeling let down after going unsold at the Women's Premier League auction before the Sri Lanka call-up. "Of course, it feels bad when you have expectations," she said. However, she channelled that disappointment into her Under-23 commitments for Madhya Pradesh, choosing not to let emotions affect her performance. "I focused only on what was in my hands."

Her perseverance soon paid off with a maiden India call-up. Walking into a dressing room filled with World Cup winners was an emotional and nerve-wracking experience, but she was warmly welcomed by senior players.

Vaishnavi continues to idolise captain Harmanpreet Kaur for her fighting spirit and Smriti Mandhana for her mindset of starting afresh after every contribution. In bowling, she draws inspiration from Ravindra Jadeja and Radha Yadav for their accuracy and control, as she looks to carve a lasting place in Indian cricket.

Man City win race to sign Semenyo from Bournemouth in reported $87 mn deal

Manchester City sign Ghana forward Antoine Semenyo from Bournemouth in £65m deal boosting

MANCHESTER

Manchester City have completed the signing of Ghana forward Antoine Semenyo from Bournemouth, winning the race for one of the Premier League's standout attackers in a deal reportedly worth £65 million ($87 million). The 26-year-old has agreed to a five-and-a-half-year contract as City look to strengthen their squad for challenges on both domestic and European fronts.

Semenyo has enjoyed a stellar season with Bournemouth, scoring 10 goals and establishing himself as one of the most dangerous attackers in English football. His form had attracted interest from several top clubs, including Manchester United and Liverpool, but City moved decisively to secure his signature.

The versatile forward adds further depth to Pep Guardiola's wide options, which already include Jeremy Doku, Savinho, Oscar Bobb and Omar Marmoush. With Savinho and Bobb currently sidelined through injury and Marmoush away at the Africa Cup of Nations and struggling for form, Semenyo's arrival provides timely reinforcement. "I have so much scope for improvement, so to be at this club at this stage of my career is perfect," Semenyo said in a statement released by City. "It's a real privilege to be here. My best football is yet to come."

Semenyo marked his final appearance for Bournemouth in memorable fashion, scoring a stoppage-time winner from outside the box against Tottenham Hotspur earlier this week. Known for his two-footedness and ability to play on either flank, he described his style as unpredictable and difficult to defend against. "It's my God-given talent," he said.

City's director of football Hugo Viana described Semenyo as the club's top target, praising his Premier League pedigree, humility and work ethic. Guardiola's side currently sit second in the league, six points behind Arsenal, and fourth in the Champions League standings. Semenyo, who has never played in the Champions League, could make his City debut in Saturday's FA Cup third-round tie against Exeter and is eligible for the League Cup semifinals against Newcastle next week.

Arsenal miss chance to stretch lead in Liverpool stalemate

Gunners held scoreless at home as stormy Emirates clash ends goalless

LONDON

Arsenal squandered the opportunity to open up an eight-point lead at the top of the Premier League after being held to a 0-0 draw by Liverpool in difficult conditions at the Emirates Stadium.

The stalemate marked the first time this season that Mikel Arteta's side failed to score at home, though the result was still enough to extend their advantage over second-placed Manchester City to six points. City's recent stumbles — three consecutive draws over the past week — had raised hopes among Arsenal fans of a decisive step toward a first league title in 22 years.

Instead, a highly anticipated clash between the defending champions and the apparent title favourites failed to ignite, with Storm Goretti bringing torrential rain and swirling winds that disrupted rhythm and quality for both sides.

Liverpool, one of only two teams to beat Arsenal this season, came closest to breaking the deadlock before halftime. A loose backpass from William Saliba nearly gifted the visitors a goal, with Conor Bradley's audacious lob striking the underside of the crossbar as goalkeeper David Raya scrambled.

The second half saw Liverpool enjoy more possession and territory, but their attacking threat was blunted by the absence of key forwards. Alexander Isak and Hugo Ekitike were sidelined through injury, while Mohamed Salah was away on Africa Cup of Nations duty. As a result, Arsenal were rarely tested beyond the pace of Jeremie Frimpong, whose final delivery was lacking.

Dominik Szoboszlai threatened with a dipping free-kick, echoing his match-winning strike against Arsenal earlier in the season, but it fell just wide.

At the other end, Viktor Gyokeres endured another frustrating outing before being withdrawn, extending his open-play goal drought to 10 matches. Arteta introduced Gabriel Jesus, Noni Madueke, Eberechi Eze and Gabriel Martinelli in search of a breakthrough, yet Arsenal managed only late efforts straight at Alisson Becker.

For Liverpool, the point extended their unbeaten league run to 10 matches and moved them three points clear of Newcastle and Manchester United in the race for Champions League qualification.

World's oldest professional footballer says age is making him better

At 58, world's oldest professional footballer says age is making him better

TOKYO

Kazuyoshi Miura, affectionately known as "King Kazu," insists time is still on his side as the world's oldest professional football player prepares for yet another season, approaching his 59th birthday with undimmed enthusiasm.

Miura was officially unveiled on Friday as a new signing for Fukushima United FC, a third-division J-League club, after moving on loan from Yokohama FC. Speaking at a press conference in Tokyo, the Japanese icon said his motivation continues to grow, even as he defies the limits of age in elite sport.

"My passion only grows the more I pursue it," Miura said. "Even though I'm getting older — I'll be 59 this year — I feel my passion is actually increasing."

The veteran forward spent last season on loan with fourth-division side Atletico Suzuka, where he made seven appearances but did not score. Despite limited minutes and goals in recent years, Miura remains determined to contribute on the pitch rather than simply serve as a symbolic figure.

Miura's professional career began in 1986 with Santos in Brazil, the club immortalized by Pelé, and has since spanned continents. He has played professionally in Italy, Croatia, Australia and Portugal, in addition to a long and storied career in Japan.

In 2017, Miura rewrote football history by becoming the oldest player to score in a professional match at the age of 50, surpassing a record previously held by England great Stanley Matthews.

A trailblazer for Japanese football, Miura was among the country's first global stars. During the 1990s, he scored 55 goals in 89 appearances for the national team and helped elevate the profile of the sport domestically and abroad.

"I have a strong desire to play in matches and perform well," Miura said. "I'll prepare thoroughly and give everything I have."

As Fukushima United prepare for the upcoming season, Miura's presence offers not just experience, but a rare reminder that longevity in sport is possible — powered by discipline, resilience and an enduring love for the game.

Real Madrid edge Atletico to set up Clasico Spanish Super Cup final

JEDDAH

Xabi Alonso's Real Madrid secured a 2-1 victory over city rivals Atletico Madrid at King Abdullah Sports City in Jeddah, setting up a Clasico final against Barcelona on Sunday. Fede Valverde's ferocious free-kick and a Rodrygo Goes strike earned Los Blancos their fifth consecutive win across all competitions, while Alexander Sorloth pulled one back for Atletico.

Madrid, under Alonso, had faced scrutiny after inconsistent results toward the end of 2025 but have gradually regained form. Valverde netted his first goal of the campaign with a spectacular free-kick in the second minute, giving Madrid an early advantage. "After so many games without scoring, today was a great game to help the team win," Valverde said.

Rodrygo extended Madrid's lead in the 55th minute, continuing his scoring form after a long drought of 32 games. Atletico responded three minutes later through Sorloth's header from a Giuliano Simeone cross, but it proved insufficient to change the outcome.

Alonso defended his team's approach, emphasizing the importance of securing the win rather than dominating possession.

'Would be fun': Alcaraz, Sinner tease prospect of teaming up in doubles

SEOUL

Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner, the two dominant forces of men's tennis in 2025, have playfully floated the idea of joining hands in doubles, even as their rivalry continues to shape the sport's present and future.

Speaking on Friday ahead of their exhibition match in Incheon, South Korea, the friends-turned-rivals admitted that sharing the court on the same side is an idea they find appealing. The match will serve as their lone warm-up before the Australian Open begins on January 18.

"I think it would be fun at least one time to share the court in different ways, on the same side," said Sinner, the world No. 2 behind top-ranked Alcaraz. "For one tournament, I think it's great to do it."

However, Sinner acknowledged the challenges posed by the demanding singles calendar, noting that deep runs in singles events often leave little room for recovery before doubles matches. "We are so focused on singles that it's very difficult," he said, adding that the idea could be revisited later this year or next.

Alcaraz echoed the sentiment, admitting the thought had crossed his mind. "At least once would be fun," the Spaniard said, joking about their hypothetical roles: "I think I'm playing forehand and he's playing backhand."

The two stars dominated the 2025 season, splitting all four Grand Slam titles between them. Alcaraz claimed the French Open and US Open, while Sinner lifted the Australian Open and Wimbledon trophies, cementing a rivalry that has drawn comparisons with the Federer-Nadal-Djokovic era.

For now, though, their focus remains firmly on singles success. Alcaraz, 22, said the South Korea exhibition was an ideal way to prepare for Melbourne, where he is aiming to surpass his previous best quarter-final finish. He has also been vocal about the sport's congested schedule, having withdrawn from last year's Shanghai Masters due to physical issues.

Sinner, meanwhile, said comparisons with the "Big Three" were premature. "We want to make our own story," he said. "We need to see how long we can keep up this level."

Whether as rivals or potential partners, Alcaraz and Sinner continue to captivate tennis fans — and the prospect of them teaming up, even briefly, only adds to the intrigue.

Edwards third-youngest to 10,000 points

MINNEAPOLIS

Minnesota Timberwolves star Anthony Edwards etched his name into NBA history by becoming the third-youngest player to reach 10,000 career points. The milestone came during 131-122 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers, when Edwards sank a fadeaway jumper in the fourth quarter. At 24 years and 156 days, he trails only LeBron James and Kevin Durant in achieving the feat. Edwards finished with 25 points, nine assists and seven rebounds, downplaying the achievement by calling it "cool" while stressing there is much more ahead in his career.

Martinelli sorry for 'heat of the moment' conduct toward injured Bradley

LONDON

Arsenal winger Gabriel Martinelli has issued an apology to Liverpool defender Conor Bradley following a controversial incident in stoppage time of last match's 0-0 Premier League draw at the Emirates, admitting his actions were made "in the heat of the moment."

Bradley was left writhing in pain near the touchline after landing awkwardly on his left knee while making a clearance late in the match. As Liverpool prepared to deal with the situation, a visibly frustrated Martinelli walked over, dropped the ball on the injured defender, made contact with his knee and pushed him off the pitch to restart play. The incident immediately angered Liverpool players and led to a brief confrontation between the two sides. Martinelli was shown a yellow card, but the episode drew widespread criticism after the final whistle. Taking to Instagram later, Martinelli said he had contacted Bradley directly to apologise.

Men's HIL: Kalinga Lancers makes it two in a row

CHENNAI

Vedanta Kalinga Lancers showcased resilience and composure in a thrilling 2-1 victory over defending champions Shrachi Bengal Tigers at the SDAT–Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium, completing their Chennai leg with two wins from two matches. All three goals came in the final eight minutes of the last quarter, highlighting the intensity and unpredictability of the match.

Belgian Olympian Alexander Hendrickx was pivotal once again for the Lancers. He opened the scoring with a powerful drag-flick that beat goalkeeper James Carrin's outstretched hand. Hendrickx nearly doubled the lead moments later, but Carr managed to block his second attempt.

Bengal Tigers responded quickly, with Sukhjeet Singh receiving a long ball from centre-back Tommy Willems on the left of the goal line. Singh squared it across the face of the goal, and Affan Yousuf reacted sharply to slot the ball home, leveling the scores.

With three minutes remaining, the Lancers struck decisively. Hendrickx's drag-flick was parried by Carr, but Boby Singh Dhami pounced on the rebound to seal the victory, ensuring the Lancers maintained their momentum and perfect start to the Chennai leg.

The win emphasized Kalinga Lancers' ability to deliver under pressure, with key players stepping up at crucial moments. Tigers, in contrast, ended the first leg with just one win from three games and will need to regroup ahead of the next fixtures.

Hendrickx's brilliance and the Lancers' late-game composure highlight why the team is being viewed as one of the most dynamic sides in this season's Hockey India League.

Minnesota hold moment of silence for 'unspeakable tragedy'

MINNEAPOLIS

The Minnesota Timberwolves held a moment of silence on Friday in memory of Renee Good, who was shot dead by a US immigration agent less than four miles from the Target Center on Wednesday. The 37-year-old's death prompted an outpouring of grief, with Timberwolves coach Chris Finch addressing the tragedy before tip-off.

"As we all know, our community has suffered yet another unspeakable tragedy," Finch said. "We want to convey our condolences and heartfelt wishes, prayers, and thoughts to the families, loved ones, and all those affected by what happened." On the court, Minnesota honored Good's memory with a 131-122 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers, marking their fourth consecutive win. Julius Randle led the Timberwolves with 28 points, 11 rebounds, and eight assists. Minnesota currently sits fourth in the Western Conference, while Cleveland, who have lost two of their last three matches, remain eighth in the Eastern Conference.

Elsewhere in the NBA, the Indiana Pacers ended a 13-game losing streak with a 114-112 victory over the Charlotte Hornets. The win marked the 1,000th career victory for coach Rick Carlisle, who has led the Pistons, Mavericks, and had two spells with the Pacers over a 25-year career. Carlisle, 66, becomes the 11th coach to reach the milestone and the first since Doc Rivers in 2021.

The Utah Jazz also ended a five-game losing streak with a 116-114 win against the Dallas Mavericks in Salt Lake City. Meanwhile, the Chicago Bulls' home game against the Miami Heat was postponed due to condensation on the United Center court, which had hosted an NHL game just 24 hours earlier. The Timberwolves' victory, coupled with the community's tribute, highlighted both the resilience of the team and the city's solidarity in the face of tragedy.

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